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CIS: ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 19 Jul

LD1907063796 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
0502 GMT 19 Jul 96

["Press Review" — ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, July 19 (Itar-Tass) — Follows a review of Friday's Moscow-based Russian newspapers dated July 19. The press highlights a search for MIA in Chechnya, the hostage release issue, the economic and political situation in Russia, and housing construction.

Newspapers report that the Olympic flame is to be lighted in Atlanta on Friday at the opening of the XXVII Olympic Games, at which Russian Olympians will perform as an independent team for the first time since 1912.

IZVESTIYA carries an interview with Colonel-General Valentin Panichev, Chief Military Prosecutor, and his staff about problems connected with attempts to find evidence of corruption in the top echelon of the Defence Ministry.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA runs remarks by President Boris Yeltsin at a visiting session of the Defence Ministry Collegium at the Barvikha sanatorium near Moscow. The President introduced Colonel-General Igor Rodionov, the newly-appointed Defence Minister of the Russian Federation, to the Armed Forces' top brass.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA on a search for MIA in Chechnya and endeavours to secure the release of captives held in Chechnya.

"We do everything to secure the release of our soldiers from captivity in Chechnya," points out State Duma Member Nikolai Bezborodov, Head of the Group for the search for those missing in action and for the freeing of captives held in Chechnya. As of now, 467 people have been freed, with 366 servicemen among them.

IZVESTIYA on the re-emergence of Chechen field commander Salman Raduyev. Under the headline "Salman Raduyev is alive, is back in Chechnya and is preparing yet another act of sabotage", the newspaper carries a dispatch by its correspondent Vadim Belykh from Chechnya.

The journalist reports that field commander Raduyev, who gained notoriety after the militants' armed actions at Kizlyar and Pervomayskoye, was transported in an utterly serious condition across the territory of Azerbaijan to one of Middle Eastern countries. Over there, he was healed of his wounds, and had a nose restoration operation performed on him. Early in July, Raduyev returned to Chechnya and again assumed the duties of the commander of the south-western front, the journalist writes.

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI opens up a new rubric, "Ideas for Russia".

"There are ideas that can unite everyone" is the headline of an article by Gennadiy Osipov, Director of the Russian Academy of Sciences' Institute for Socio-Political Studies.

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA runs a Russian government resolution "On measures to protect the consumer market of the Russian Federation from penetration by sub-quality imported merchandise".

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA carries a column of dispatches by its own correspondents about the course of the implementaion of the Federal Housing Programme. They point out that housing construction is in progress not only in Moscow but also in Tyumen, Vladimir, Orenburg, and other cities. In all, 124 million square metres of housing have been built in the country over the past three years, and seven million people in Russia have been rehoused.

TRUD runs an interview with Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev, who believes that "Russia, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan are the three countries on which Kyrgyzstan's future depends". Akayev emphasised that Russia has been and will remain Kyrgyzstan's main ally and partner.

SEGODNYA runs an interview with Nikolay Yegorov, former Chief of the Presidential Staff, who has been appointed the Governor of Krasnodar Territory, makes an estimate of the economic and political situation in Russia.

Russia: Gore To Carry Mostly Good News on Russia Back to Clinton

MK1807120796 Moscow MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 18 Jul 96 p 1

[Article by Mikhail Stoyanov: "Load Off Shoulders"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Thanks are due to Albert Gore. Had he not come to Moscow for a scheduled session of the intergovernmental commission on economic and technological cooperation, we would have not come to learn from an authoritative source about the health of our own president. Unlike the inarticulate and monosyllabic answers of Kremlin servants to this question, the U.S. Vice President was articulate: President Yeltsin has made an indelible impression on me. He is in excellent physical shape.

I do not see why we should learn about the general state of the head of state, surrounded by so many rumors, from a foreign visitor rather than, as is done in normal countries, from the medical personnel who monitor his health? The Americans would hardly be amused to receive such information about their president from, say, Viktor Chernomyrdin while visiting the United States, rather than from authoritative doctors attending to the White House incumbent.

The second most important person in the United States was not in Moscow in order to see the Russian president's medical records. He was more interested in Russia's political and economic health, upon which largely depends the success of the operation of the Gore-Chernomyrdin Commission, which met for a seventh time. Judging by the list of questions discussed — from trade and investment cooperation and environmental protection to combating crime in the economic sphere and interaction in the area of space research — and the documents passed, the Americans today regard Russia as a serious and promising partner. Concrete areas of cooperation have been defined, in particular, the development of Arctic oil and gas deposits and upgrading the safety of nuclear power stations. Work has begun on a project to jointly assemble a space station called Alfa. Gore's remark on the investments that are supposed to come pouring into Russia is seen by observers within the context of B. Yeltsin's election victory, which is supposed to "unfreeze" American businessmen's desire to invest billions of dollars in the Russian economy. In this respect there have already been indications that major credit organizations in the United States are ready to finance joint power engineering projects to the tune of $8 billion.

It was not all clear sailing though. The chicken quarters issue resurfaced. According to a BUSINESS-TASS correspondent report, Deputy Premier A. Zaveryukha stated that the government intended to impose quotas on food imports, in particular, on the importation of the celebrated American chicken quarters. There followed right off O. Davydov's denial to the effect that no restrictions on trade with the United States were planned, and the subject was not even discussed with the American delegation in Moscow.

Did the two deputy premiers fail to agree in advance, as often happens in this country, on what could and what could not be discussed in public?

Even more spicy appears the Chechen problem that was discussed in Barvikha and on which Gore gave Yeltsin the view of the White House. According to the U.S. Vice President, the discussion of the subject was of a "private and confidential nature," for which reason he had no right to reveal its contents. It is of course odd that Russia's internal bleeding was being discussed with a foreign visitor in secret, not accessible to the mothers and wives of Russian boys dying in Chechnya.

Nevertheless, Al Gore is going back to Washington with a clear conscience. He can report to Clinton that the cause of reforming Russia is proceeding in the right direction. Returned under the shadow of the Kremlin has been the main privatization man, Moscow is not going to declare war on chicken quarters, and President Yeltsin is in good health, something he also wishes to Bill. This means that four months ahead of the elections, Clinton can safely throw in the face of Republicans who criticized him for supporting the Russian president: We followed the right track. And that would be a load off his shoulders.

Russia: Yeltsin Condolences Over TWA Air Crash

LD1807163496 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1622 GMT 18 Jul 96

[By Yuriy Kozlov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, July 18 (Itar-Tass) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin has sent a message of condolences to U.S. President Bill Clinton today in connection with a tragic incident in the Atlantic in which the US "Boeing-747" passenger airliner crashed, killing passengers and crew, spokesman for the Russian foreign ministry Vladimir Andreyev said at a briefing here today.

The Russian people were shocked by the tragedy, the spokesman said. "Air traffic safety is a common problem faced by the international community," the diplomat noted. "It is necessary to prepare and adopt a programme of urgent measures for purposes of cardinal improvement of air traffic safety and lessening the danger of air disasters. Russia, as a big aviation power, is prepared to make its contribution to this work," the Russian diplomat said.

Russia: Moscow on U.S. Trade Sanctions, 'Anti-Iranian Policy'

NC1807205096 Moscow Voice of Russia World Service in Persian 1500 GMT 18 Jul 96

["Today's Commentary"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear friends. As the events indicate, the United States continues to pursue its anti-Iranian policy vigorously. In any case recent decision-making by the Senate in the U.S. Congress regarding the legal bill for intensifying the sanctions against Iran and Libya, the other opponent of the United States on the international scene, is an indication of the same.

The issue of the approval of this bill had been propounded for quite some time. President Bill Clinton's government immediately supported it. In June, this bill was presented to the House of Representatives in the U.S. Congress. Exerting pressure on foreign countries inclined to forge economic relations with Tehran and Tripoli is the main point in this bill.

Washington has envisaged that the fuel and energy complex is the basis of the respective economies of both countries. It is for this reason that the sharp edge of the aforementioned legal bill is directed toward those companies that intend to invest more than $40 million cumulatively in the explorations sectors of Iran and Libya.

This does not seem too enormous, as the extraction of oil and gas and their refining requires massive investment. In addition, in the bill approved by the Senate, companies investing in the production of weapons or the strengthening of the Iranian and Libyan aviation complexes will be penalized. The spectrum of specific measures to be taken against foreign companies interested in dealing with Tehran or Tripoli is extremely diverse.

The United States can prevent the Import and Export Bank of the United States from granting them credit or issuing licenses. It can also ban other American banks from issuing credit of more than $10 million to such companies annually. If foreign financial institutions wish to deal with Iran or Libya, Washington will deprive them of their right to have priority with regard to credit in the form of U.S. government securities.

Similarly, the prohibition of imports of goods into the United States by these companies will not be ruled out. However, the variants [preceding word in English] of the legislative bill approved by the House of Representatives and the Senate in the U.S. Congress are different from one another to a certain extent. Therefore, U.S. legislators foresee the compiling of a compromising draft in the conciliation commission. Thus, it is already quite clear that the punitive sanctions against Iran and Libya will be intensified.

What reaction the people of the world, including the U.S.' European allies, will display is another issue. The adoption of similar measures against Cuba resulted in the European Union [EU] taking a series of reciprocal actions. This culminated in President Clinton postponing the implementation of the anti-Cuban Helms-Burton bill for six months.

In the United States itself, due to the emergence of a similar reaction on the anti-Libyan and anti-Iranian moves, there seems to be much apprehension. However, the supporters of the tightening of sanctions against Tehran and Tripoli are categorical and say that the European and other countries should choose whether they wish to trade with the United States or with Iran and Libya.

Russia: Moscow Backs UN Appeal for 'Olympic Truce'

LD1807181996 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1623 GMT 18 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, July 18 (Interfax) — Moscow supports the appeal by the president of the U.N. General Assembly to all countries to conclude an "Olympic truce" for the period of the 26th Olympic Games in Atlanta from July 19 to August 4, spokesman for the Russian Foreign Minister Vladimir Andreyev told a briefing in Moscow Thursday.

"Russia hopes that while following the Olympic ideals, parties involved in conflicts anywhere in the world will use this week in order to put aside arms and to try to find a decision by means of a dialogue, by means of sense and compromises," he said.

Russia: Moscow Notes Trend for Compromise in NATO's East Expansion

LD1807180096 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1623 GMT 18 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, July 18 (Interfax) — Moscow has noted that attempts to look for compromise decisions have appeared in the issue of the eastward expansion of NATO. This was noticed during the recent meeting between Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeniy Primakov and Italian Foreign Minister Lamberto Dini in Moscow, Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Vladimir Andreyev told a briefing in Moscow Thursday.

"This tendency requires further development," he said.

The Italian minister pointed to the desire of the Central and Eastern European countries to enter NATO, on the one hand, and the need to develop the dialogue between Russia and NATO as well as to establish firmer relations between Russia and NATO structures, on the other.

"There should be no forced decisions, according to the Italian party," Andreyev said.

Russia: Moscow Calls For Dayton Accords To Be Strictly Observed

LD1807183396 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1808 GMT 18 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, July 18 (Interfax) — Elections must be held on time and in strict accordance with the Dayton peace agreements in both parts of Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Bosnian Serb republic and the Muslim-Croat federation, a Russian Foreign Ministry official quoted Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeniy Primakov as saying at talks with the head of the OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe] mission in Bosnia in Moscow Thursday.

The latter informed Primakov of the plans to hold a meeting of a Provisional Electoral Commission in Sarajevo on July 19, which would discuss proposed changes in current election regulations and announce the beginning of an election campaign in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The Russian side expressed serious concern over the latest developments in Bosnia and attempts to change the long-approved electoral rules and procedures. Moscow believes that such actions encroach upon the rights of the voters and candidates.

Russia: Radio Cites Foreign Agency Reporting Dudayev, Raduyev Alive

LD1807183096 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1800 GMT 18 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A report by the ASSOCIATED PRESS can be described as the sensation of the day. It has reported that notorious Chechen field commander Salman Raduyev, who was said to be dead, is alive. He told several journalists not far from Gudermes that he had been having treatment in Germany during all this time. Moreover, Raduyev has said that Chechen separatist leader Dzhokhar Dudayev is also alive. In this connection Radio Liberty quoted Raduyev as saying that Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev is nothing more than a vice president of the self-proclaimed republic of Ichkeria and that he must disavow the agreement he had signed with the federal center. Raduyev also said that the trolleybus blasts in Moscow were staged by Chechen fighters to honor his rebirth. ASSOCIATED PRESS said that officials in Moscow refused to comment on information concerning Raduyev's meeting with journalists including a television correspondent of the agency. The German Foreign Ministry has also described as improbable Raduyev's stay in Germany.

Russia: ITAR-TASS Says Serb Side 'Has Met' U.S. Demands on Karadzic

LD1907085396 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0848 GMT 19 Jul 96

["Karadzic Quits Political Life Completely" — ITAR-TASS headline; by Aleksandr Kondrashov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BELGRADE, July 19 (Itar-Tass) — The Serb side has met Washington's demands that Bosnia Serb leader Radovan Karadzic quit political life.

At a meeting with journalists here on Friday, Richard Holbrooke, the US administration's special representative, showed a xeroxed copy of a Memorandum, signed last night, in which all negotiators from the Serb side, as well as Karadzic himself, undertake to meet the demand for his departure from all State and Party posts, for his non-participation in the election campaign, and renunciation of media interviews.

From July 19 presidential powers in Respublika Srpska are passed on to Biljana Plavsic while the Serb Democratic Party will be headed by Aleksa Buha.

Russia: Foreign Ministry Welcomes Karadzic's Resignation

LD1907104596 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1014 GMT 19 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, July 19 (Interfax) — The resignation of Radovan Karadzic from the position of chairman of the Serbian Democratic Party and his departure from the political scene meets all the requirements on this issue set in the framework peace agreement on Bosnia, the decisions of the Florence ministerial meeting of the council supervising the agreement and the statements made by the so-called Group of Eight in Lyon, says a statement from a Russian Foreign Ministry handed over to INTERFAX Friday [19 July].

Now "all efforts must be concentrated on the elections which are to be a major stage in normalizing life in Bosnia and both its parts, the Serb Republic and the Muslim-Croat Federation," the statement reads.

Moscow supports all the decisions aimed at facilitating the process of political settlement in Bosnia with an equal and balanced approach to all parties, the statement says.

Russia: Moscow Hopes Turkey Will Continue Cooperation

LD1807140096 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1342 GMT 18 Jul 96

[By Aleksandr Zhudro]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, July 18 (Itar-Tass) — A Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman expressed hope on Thursday that the governmental reshuffle in Turkey would not result in Ankara distancing itself from cooperation with Russia.

"We believe that change in internal policy will not lead to Ankara's abandoning the line of dialogue and multilateral cooperation with Russia," Vladimir Andreyev said in connection with leader of the Welfare Party Necmettin Erbakan's taking office as prime minister on Thursday.

The current governmental combination of the clerical Welfare party and the centre-right True Path Party is an "extraordinary one in Turkish history, and with this in mind, its activity is worthy of the closest notice," Andreyev said.

The programme of the new government, which received a vote of confidence in parliament, "is not much different from the programmes of Turkey's previous governments."

"Turkey remains an important partner for Russia in international and, especially, regional affairs," he stressed.

Russia: Turkish Assembly Speaker on Talks With Chernomyrdin

TA1807162896 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1517 GMT 18 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, July 18 (A.A) — A parliamentary delegation headed by Parliament Speaker Mustafa Kalemli concluded official contacts in Russia, it was reported on Thursday.

Kalemli who met Russian Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin this morning staged a press conference about his contacts in Moscow.

Kalemli said Turkish-Russian relations would further be improved after the contacts and stressed that there were countries who would benefit from the splitting of relations between Turkey and Russia.

Parliament speaker said Turkey and Russia should take their places if a lasting peace is demanded in the region, and if we are seeking for lasting decisions which would contribute to the world peace.

'Countries who know this fact, and who think it would be beneficial for them, intervene to our domestic affairs. We should be careful not to be trapped by them' he added.

Kalemli also briefed Turkish reporters about his meeting with Chernomyrdin which took place this morning. He said Russian side especially focused on 'straits and Chechnya' issues adding Chernomyrdin was pleased over Turkey's approach to foreign politics and its foreign policy.

Kalemli said Chernomyrdin told him that they expressed understanding to Turkey on straits issue and that the security of straits was an important aspect of Turkey's security, but they had several difficulties in transporting petroleum. 'But yet' Kalemli added Chernomyrdin told him that 'these issues could be overcome by bilateral dialogues.'

'I have told him that Turkey is a faithful follower of the international agreements on straits issues and that Turkey would not give concession on the issue, and that we have concerns over the increasing tanker traffic' Kalemli said, adding 'I also told him that Turkey is sensitive toward life, environment, and human beings and that our attitude is not directed to anybody or any country.'

Kalemli said Chernomyrdin listened to him carefully and told him that Russia was ready to extend necessary aid but they needed a security atmosphere to discuss these issues.

Kalemli said 'speaking on Chechnya issue, Chernomyrdin said they were trying to overcome the problem within the framework of their laws and expected friendly countries to extend help to them.'

Kalemli also said Chernomyrdin expressed uneasiness over the demonstrations and statements of several associations in Turkey on Chechnya issue, adding 'Chernomyrdin said they approved of Turkey's attitude on the issue and that they knew that Turkey has a cold-blooded approach to the issue within the framework of respect to territorial integrity.'

'I have told him that Turkey respected Russia's territorial integrity, and that we did not intervene to their domestic affairs, but at the same time expressed our demand that Turkey wanted this bleeding wound to be healed within international law principles and respecting to human rights' he added.

Kalemli said 'I have told Chernomyrdin that separatist terrorist PKK [Workers Party of Kurdistan] organization massacred our innocent civilians, shouted their aims that they wanted to split up our country and that unfortunately several countries embraced this organization.'

'I have expressed that we were sensitive on the issue' Kalemli said, adding this terrorist organization convened in foreign countries under several names and that it did it in Russia too. Duma deputies organized such meetings and moreover they have participated in these meetings.

Kalemli said Chernomyrdin told him that he did not have a specific information on the issue but promised such incident would not be repeated again.

Russia: As Talks Begin, Georgia, Abkhazia Remain Divided

MM1807150096 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Jul 96 p 7

[Report by Aleksandr Shinkin under "Talks" rubric: "An Outstretched Hand Spurned"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The latest round of talks on the settlement of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict have opened in Moscow. The delegations are in optimistic mood, to judge from their leaders' statements, and intend working in a constructive vein.

But all last week Georgian politicians were actively discussing a statement by Lieutenant General Avtandil Ioseliani, the republic's first deputy security minister.

After returning from Abkhazia, where he met with Abkhazian leaders, the general said in conversation with journalists that [Abkhazian President] "Vladislav Ardzinba is not opposed to meeting with Eduard Shevardnadze in a city in Georgia." According to Avtandil Ioseliani, he concluded from his conversation with Ardzinba that the head of the Abkhazian administration "wants to live in the same area with us."

The news issued by Ioseliani was received in various ways. Some saw in this new prospects for the solution of the Abkhazian conflict. Others were unhappy with this idea. In their opinion, there is no point in a meeting between Shevardnadze and Ardzinba, who, they believe, is not really interested in the settlement of the conflict in Abkhazia.

The head of state himself has expressed the conviction that conditions conducive to a settlement of the Abkhazian conflict have emerged since Boris Yeltsin's election victory. Eduard Shevardnadze also noted that "interesting trends have emerged recently toward an activation of the Georgian-Abkhazian dialogue. There are now regular meetings between the sides' representatives. We must also make full use of these opportunities." Eduard Shevardnadze did not clarify whether he will meet with Ardzinba, and if so when and where.

In Abkhazia Avtandil Ioseliani's words have neither been confirmed nor denied. Ardzinba's press secretary merely noted in a telephone conversation with the ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA editorial office that the general is oversimplifying many of the problems. When we asked whether Ardzinba is ready to meet with Shevardnadze, the press secretary said: "The leader of Abkhazia is ready to meet with anyone anywhere so long as this promotes the peaceful settlement of the conflict."

Sukhumi believes that many aspects of this question depend on the position of Russia, which has assumed a mediatory and peacekeeping role in the settlement of the conflict and the solution of the accumulated problems. They are also noting here that agreement has already been reached on most questions during the long and complex negotiations. But there are questions on political relations between Abkhazia and Georgia which remain unresolved. And it is these questions which are at the center of the dispute.

The two sides' participants in the talks have been noting the complexity of these problems. But at the same time there are forces which are constantly trying to complicate those problems even further. That is precisely how the recent introduction of 100 policemen into the Kodori gorge is viewed in Sukhumi. This not only contradicts the previously signed agreement, they believe here, but is also provoking the disruption of the talks and the resumption of the war. Unless the Georgian leadership manages to overcome the inertia of revenge, the Abkhazian spokesman stated, the success of the talks could be in jeopardy.

It is difficult to tell who is in the right and who is to blame in the conflicts which have been dampened down. But I recall that in conversation Vazha Lordkipanidze, Georgia's ambassador to Russia, says among other things when speaking about the settlement of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict that Sukhumi refuses to see Tbilisi's outstretched hand. But when I mentioned that to the Abkhazian spokesman he reached into a file of papers and produced the Republic of Abkhazia Supreme Soviet's appeal to the Georgian State Council which was due to be discussed at a session of parliament 14 August 1992 (that is, on the day the Georgian troops went into Abkhazia allegedly to protect the railroad) and read out the final paragraph: "We, the deputies of the Republic of Abkhazia Supreme Soviet, state that we will unreservedly travel our part of the way toward the revival of good relations between the Abkhazian and

Georgian peoples. At the same time we hope that our outstretched hand is not left hanging in the air."

Oh Lord, when will the hands of these peoples finally clasp together? Not in war — but in friendship.

Russia: Georgia-Abkhaz Talks Continue as Peacekeepers' Mandate Ends

MM1807131796 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 18 Jul 96 p 3

[Report by Boris Vinogradov: "Russian Peacekeepers on Inguri Could Become 'Illegals'"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The latest round of Georgian-Abkhaz consultations in Moscow is being held at a time when the mandate of the Russian peacekeepers in the security zone on the banks of the Inguri River is coming to an end. It expires 19 July, and it is not known if it will be extended or if the Georgian side will turn down the services of the assault troops from Russia's 345th Regiment. During their two-year stay in the zone they have seen 20 of their men killed. [passage omitted]

As a mediator in the talks, Russia is proposing an option of unification between Georgia and Abkhazia whereby each of the two sides would be considered "equal," would have its own constitution, and relations between them would be regulated by a special treaty. Judging by the information coming out of the negotiating room, this option suits Sukhumi more. Tbilisi continues to insist on a federal composition for the unified state.

There is still a long way to go before either option is implemented. Meanwhile, the Russian peacekeepers separating the warring factions on the Inguri could find themselves without a mandate — that is, essentially in an illegal position.

Political Issues

Russia: Yeltsin, Chubays Discuss Strategy, Cadre Issues

LD1907110796 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1052 GMT 19 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 19 Jul (Itar-Tass) — President Boris Yeltsin today had a working meeting with Anatoliy Chubays, head of the president's administration office. The presidential press service has briefly reported that "the strategy of the political process for the upcoming four years, the improvement of the structure of the presidential administration, and cadre issues have been discussed."

Russia: Yeltsin, Stroyev Discuss Federation Council, Local Elections

LD1907101896 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1005 GMT 19 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, July 19 (Interfax) — President Boris Yeltsin and Chairman of the Federation Council Yegor Stroyev met Friday at the sanatorium of Barvikha near Moscow.

Yeltsin and Stroyev discussed, among other issues, the functioning of the Federation Council (the upper house of parliament), the promotion of democratic processes and municipal self-government, and preparations for regional elections, knowledgeable parliamentary sources told Interfax.

Russia: Yeltsin's Inauguration, Staff Changes Viewed

MK1907074896 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 18 Jul 96 p 1

[Report by Tatyana Malkina: "A 'Presidential Chain' Will Be Bestowed on Boris Yeltsin on 9 August. By That Time, Many Officials in the Kremlin Will Have Been Freed From All Chains"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The second routine session of the commission on the preparation for the presidential inauguration ceremony was held successfully yesterday. The event was run by Nikolay Yegorov, for whom the assignment to deal with the oath of reelected Boris Yeltsin, given while he was still in the capacity of presidential chief of staff, became his last honorary mission in the Kremlin. The result of the session, which took place on Staraya Square in the shade of a large sketch of the main scene of the festivity, was the ascertaining of that the stage of the "preparation of working materials for the ceremony" was over and that "corresponding assignments, dealing with both creative and technical tasks, have been given." In addition, draft invitations to the festivity had been ready by yesterday's meeting, whereas the lists of participants and guests should be finalized by the next, third, session of the commission.

Of course, an amateur can think that to hold regular sessions of a commission in order to put a president under oath, which will take just a few hours, is a bit too much. Meanwhile, experts are trying to solve problems of technical and ideological kinds. The former include the repair work being under way in Sobornaya Square, where it was decided to inaugurate Boris Yeltsin in view of the expected great number of guests and participants, as well as the uncertainty about the funding of this event — the matter which Mr. Yegorov asked to settle as quickly as possible.

As for the politico-mythological aspect of the forthcoming festivity, the situation is even more serious. Aleksandr Shokhin, commission member, spoke prophetically about a potential problem linked with that the draft inauguration procedure was based on fundamental postulates of the presidential version of the law "On the Assumption of Duties," which was still being considered by the Federation Council at the time of the commission session. Mr. Shokhin's misgivings indeed have come true: The senators have turned down the law, although there is still time to settle this problem. Much more complicated, however, is the problem of a symbol of the presidential power in Russia, which — whatever this might be — is supposed to be bestowed on the president during the inauguration. In the opinion of the commission, such a symbol should be an object bearing the name of the "Order of Meritorious Service to the Fatherland First Class," which seems unfit for this particular occasion. The problem is that, most likely, this order will not be an order in the full sense of the word (that is, an order as an award), but will remain a unique object existing only in one copy — in accordance with the number of active Russian presidents. It has also to be decided whether it will be supplemented by a chain — "a presidential chain," as Mr. Shokhin called it — to be put on Boris Yeltsin and whether ex-presidents of independent Russia should be given a replica of this symbol — or, if so, whether it should be accompanied with a replica of the chain or with a specially manufactured shoulder ribbon, and so on and so forth. As for the object on which Boris Yeltsin is expected to put his hand, everything is more or less clear: "Our Gospel is the Constitution," Mr. Shokhin said and proposed that a special copy of the Fundamental Law be published (it seems that, for esthetic reasons, the Fundamental Law needs to be made thicker and bound in morocco hard cover). Members of the commission find all of this very important since, in this way, a new Russian tradition is to be created, which should, on one hand, incorporate befitting prerevolutionary elements and, on the other, to be comprehensible for people.

Actually, the inauguration of Boris Yeltsin as head of state will take place on 9 August in Sobornaya Square in the Kremlin. The main characters in the ceremony will be Boris Yeltsin and Vladimir Tumanov, chairman of the Russian Constitutional Court, who will propose that the president take an oath. The ceremony will be held in the presence of members of the Federal Assembly and of the Constitutional Court. It is expected to be attended by about 3,000 guests, including leaders of the CIS countries, heads of diplomatic missions, and other foreign guests. After the ceremony, a festive reception is to be given in the Kremlin's Hall of Facets, and in the evening of the same day festive fireworks will be displayed in Moscow. Aleksandr Shokhin emphasized that the presidential inauguration ceremony would require no special expenditures.

Meanwhile, the Kremlin is getting ready not only — and not so much — for the inauguration. Officials at various levels, from the bottom up, keep packing and unpacking their suitcases several times a day depending on the rumors in the corridors. Staff changes, in their most radical form, are still being awaited and sometimes remain nothing but wild guesses even for those who are their immediate originators. The aides are in the worst situation. It is only the shares of Mr. Livshits that are on the rise: He has been on a long list of contenders for the post of first deputy premier in charge of economic matters. Those of Georgiy Satarov also seem not to be falling disastrously, and he is said to be getting ready to find peace at the would-be "brain center" (Mr. Chubays will probably give his support to this idea). Observers tend to move Mikhail Zadornov from the group of contenders for the post of finance minister (instead of Mr. Panskov) to the group of candidates for the post of economy minister (instead of Mr. Yasin) and back. As for Mr. Ilyushin, who has been ousted from the Kremlin but has not been appointed officially first deputy premier yet, people keep inventing numerous new functions to be ascribed to him. Speaking about Lebed, being a newcomer, he is rumored to be in bewilderment.

Anatoliy Chubays, in general, chooses to stay away from both the Kremlin and Staraya Square [the presidential administration]; he keeps sitting at his old place in Arbat. People say that he is contemplating alternative projects of reorganization of the presidential administration, submitted to him by different groups among winners in the fight against power agencies. Since, however, each of the projects, in addition to the inevitable staff reduction, undoubtedly envisions specific personal functions for those who remain, the wish of their new boss to seek solitude for quiet meditation is quite understandable.

The closer the inauguration, the more the sense of humor of faithful state servants in the presidential structures resembles the English one — "The Thames, sir" [allusion unknown] — whereas any talk about the future, even within a two-week span, tends to shift to the subjunctive mood. On discovering that an elevator is not working properly, a security guard at the presidential administration building says pompously: "The whole system is rotten."

Russia: Yeltsin Approves Regulations on Interior Ministry

LD1907081896 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0706 GMT 19 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW July 19 (Itar-Tass) — President Boris Yeltsin signed on Thursday a decree approving regulations on the Interior Ministry.

The decree on 15 pages, received by Itar-Tass today, specifies the tasks and functions of Interior Ministry bodies, as well as individual powers and obligations of the interior minister and deputy ministers.

According to the regulations, the protection of individual rights and freedoms of citizens, the protection of facilities irrespective of the type of ownership, the ensurance of law and order, and of public security are among main tasks of the ministry.

The president allowed the interior minister to have ten deputy ministers, including three first deputy ministers.

Russia: Chernomyrdin Steps Up Efforts To Secure Second Term

MK1907112696 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Jul 96 pp 1-2

[Report by Ivan Rodin under the "Personnel" rubric: "Viktor Chernomyrdin's Labor of Sisyphus. The Prime Minister Proposes, the President Disposes"]

[FBIS Translated Text] To all appearances, talk about a possible coalition government is still but mere talk, with few specific prospects for the future. What can be seen as one confirmation of this suggestion is Grigoriy Yavlinskiy's Sunday interview for NTV's "Itogi" ["Results"] news program, which the "Yabloko" leader used to announce the political and intellectual strength of his organization as well as to remind all whom it may concern that he is ready on certain conditions to sign up with the new coalition team of the executive authority. NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA has learned that Grigoriy Yavlinskiy and Viktor Chernomyrdin have in principle found a common language, seeing the "Yabloko" leader as a potential first deputy prime minister in charge of economic matters, and Yavlinskiy may even have had contact with the president on the subject.

There is one important point in this interview for "Itogi" that is worth emphasizing: Mr. Yavlinskiy agreed with the premier's view that only Boris Yeltsin can make personnel decisions. Technically, this view is not quite correct: The president actually approves the list of deputy prime ministers and ministers, but he does so at the recommendation of the premier himself and after the candidacies have been approved by the State Duma. Naturally, before this approval the premier is obliged to agree with the president on a strategy for forming the government. In fact, this has already taken place: Boris Yeltsin has accepted the heterogeneous lineup of the future cabinet, making the point that, most importantly, it must be made up of professionals. Mr. Chernomyrdin has already been given carte blanche (he is already designated as the would-be prime minister), so it is he who should now decide who will work under him.

It becomes quite understandable why one of the Russian government's veterans is so insistently preaching the principle that "everything is in the hands of God," if we try to grasp the essence of the fuss called "efforts to form a coalition government." In all likelihood, it boils down to beating around the bush so as to keep as close as possible to the premier's office in order to make it easier to get it eventually. The thing is that Viktor Chernomyrdin appears to be fearful of the following eventuality: The State Duma, which includes so many hopefuls who have proved to be nonstarters, is very displeased by the absence of new people in the cabinet, for which reason it might well balk at approving the premier's candidacy the first time. The president, for his part, having just demonstrated his ability to ruthlessly part company with his closest associates, might well opt against nominating an ill-starred candidate yet another time.

For this reason, by going slow and, most importantly, holding back-room talks on creating a coalition government, Viktor Chernomyrdin is trying to cover himself on all sides. It seems that, depending on the president's mood, reports to Boris Yeltsin feature either large-scale consultations with numerous political forces or an energetic search for professionals, motley as they might be. In the meantime, for the Duma deputies' consumption, there is drawn a picture of mounting demand for their ideas and cadres.

There is nothing serious behind this outward appearance, though. Which important posts can be given, let's say, to the Communists, if this will immediately trigger a panic among Western financiers — the main support of the Russian budget — as direct creditors and important buyers of all possible state securities. Incidentally, Viktor Chernomyrdin appears to consider "work" with the Duma faction of the CPRF the most important area of his efforts. To all appearances, the premier is trying to convince the Communists that in the event of his candidacy's approval by the Duma he will try to modify the course of reform according to the recommendatory resolution the deputies are planning to pass simultaneously with the vote on his candidacy or right after that. Interestingly, the Communists undoubtedly know that the premier will lead them up the garden path, but their current objective is to prevent Duma elections from being held too early. Chernomyrdin himself also knows that the CPRF is aware of the deception, but he is capitalizing on the situation, something for which he can hardly be reproached.

Viktor Chernomyrdin's is an unenviable position; he currently has to walk a tightrope, guessing what mood Boris Yeltsin will be in at the beginning of the second half of August, when the list of cabinet members will be placed on his desk, and what people he will prefer to see in the government. Yet, what could be even more unpleasant for him — although it might be more predictable after certain efforts have been taken — is the procedure of approval by the State Duma, for the sake of which he currently has to waste his time on empty talk with the ambitious leaders of the State Duma factions. This gives grounds to presume that the so-called "coalition government" will finally be created precisely because of this procedure, but it will prove to be short-lived — it will exist only as long as it takes the ink spent on the presidential signature under the edict approving the structure and lineup of the new cabinet under the veteran premier to dry. After that it will be a "coalition" government in name only.

The appointment of Colonel General Igor Rodionov as defense minister has considerably strengthened Aleksandr Lebed's position in the "government-presidential staff-Security Council" triangle, the Security Council secretary's close associates think. Yet they also believe that this triangle, albeit isosceles, is not yet equilateral, Mr. Lebed holding a side that is shorter than those of Chernomyrdin and Chubays.

Your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent was told in the Security Council secretary's entourage that he has not yet given up his conviction that the power triangle can only become equilateral — something the president needs more than anyone else — when Sergey Glazyev, his longtime and tested ally, becomes Lebed's deputy for economic security matters.

It is well known that Mr. Lebed has not yet managed to get the president to sign a directive appointing Mr. Glazyev. By some accounts, this has been due to intrigues both on the part of the premier — who fears that "Gazprom's personal enemy" could obtain open access to the president so as to supply him his analytical memos on the state of the economy — and on the part of a number of major financial groups.

By the way, the latter, using their influence in the mass media, have been trying to foist their own candidates on Aleksandr Lebed, such as Vladimir Groshev or Yevgeniy Savostyanov. Sources in the Security Council secretary's team assert that the most recent theory, whereby Igor Rodionov was appointed in exchange for Glazyev, has been circulated by the same groups. NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA's sources argue that this theory is absolutely groundless. It should also be noted that Rodionov cannot be exchanged for Glazyev, if only because the post of defense minister is, of course, not comparable to that of deputy Security Council secretary in terms of clout.

Furthermore, judging by the first information that has emerged, it is not that Boris Yeltsin simply succumbed to Aleksandr Lebed's pressure and appointed the person whom the Security Council secretary wanted to see hold this post as defense minister, but he carefully studied Mr. Rodionov's views on military reforms and the country's defense capability, and only after that made his decision.

Since recently Yeltsin acts very unexpectedly, to all appearances, all the personnel blueprints, let alone plans for the government lineup, that circulate in the press cannot be final until Boris Yeltsin has personally opted for one decision or another.

Russia: Chernomyrdin, Duma Speaker Discuss Government-Duma Interaction

LD1907111596 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1103 GMT 19 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, July 19 (Interfax) — Duma Chairman Gennadiy Seleznev told a news conference in Moscow on Friday that he had held a 30-minute meeting with Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin to discuss interaction between the government and the parliament and the results of the Duma's spring-summer session.

He said it was a brief meeting that discussed general issues, but a more detailed conversation will take place Monday.

The speaker said they did not discuss posts in the future government. Seleznev told Chernomyrdin that "deputies cannot work in poverty." Chernomyrdin agreed with him, he said.

Russia: FSB Denies Reporting Deaths of Raduyev, Dudayev

LD1907100396 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0934 GMT 19 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, July 19 (Interfax) — The Russian Federal Security Service (FSB) has never said that Chechen separatist leader Dzhokhar Dudayev and field commander Salman Raduyev were dead, FSB public relations chief Aleksandr Zdanovich said.

"One can say someone is dead only when one sees a dead body," Zdanovich said in comment on reports that Dudayev was taking medical treatment in a foreign country and that Raduyev had gone for medical treatment to the Middle East but returned to Chechnya earlier this month.

The FSB stated that Dudayev and Raduyev could well be alive last March and April when media editions reported their deaths, Zdanovich said. The FSB explained the reports by infighting among the Chechen separatists.

Zdanovich rejected earlier reports on the FSB's involvement in attempts to eliminate Dudayev and Raduyev.

"We are not terrorists, what we do is help the Prosecutor's Office in the context of criminal inquiries into cases reported in Chechnya," Zdanovich stressed.

In response to an article in the daily newspaper IZVESTIYA about the possibility of a new large-scale act of sabotage on Russian territory, Zdanovich said the FSB "has always taken a very serious view" of the separatists' threats to "take the hostilities beyond the Chechen border." Security elements which maintain close contacts with the police have long been put on combat alert, he said.

"Even though 99 percent of them prove to be false alarms, all bomb threat calls are verified," Zdanovich also said.

As for inquiries into the Moscow trolleybus bombings, all possible explanations, including the involvement of Chechen rebels, are being considered, he said. The Chechen connection cannot be disregarded simply because a bus was blown up on orders from a Chechen field commander in the Kabardino-Balkar capital of Nalchik just a few days before the two trolleybuses were bombed in Moscow, Zdanovich said.

Russia: Lebed Says 'Struggle' Concept Has No Place in Efficient Economy

LD1807183196 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 18 Jul 96

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The nonpayments crisis — which everybody seems to have become used to long ago — is a direct threat to Russia's security. Security Council Secretary Aleksandr Lebed said this today at hearings held at the Federation Council.

[Begin Lebed recording] We can clearly see what this can lead to from the latest events in Maritime Territory. There the nonpayments crisis is jeopardizing energy supplies in an entire region. It has forced the prime minister himself to take very vigorous measures and release fuel from the state reserves. [end recording]

[Correspondent Igor Demin] According to Lebed, the situation that is developing with regard to supplies to areas of the Far North, above all Kamchatka and Norilsk, is yet another threat to the country's economic security.

[Begin Lebed recording] Unless we take immediate measures, come autumn and the start of winter these areas could find themselves gripped by a food and energy crisis. Unfortunately, we have become used to the idea of struggle, including the struggle for the harvest. In my view, struggle has no place here. We have to prepare for this painstakingly and seriously. We should not struggle for the harvest, but simply gather it in. [end recording] [video shows Lebed in dark suit speaking from a rostrum; Federation Council chairman Yegor Stroyev is seated near Lebed toward the end]

Russia: Prosecutor's Office Not To Proceed With Alleged Plot Case

LD1907111196 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 19 Jul 96

[From the "Vesti" news bulletin with announcer Svetlana Sorokina]

[FBIS Translated Text] A criminal case has been instituted as a result of checks carried out by the General Prosecutor's Office on the circumstances of the removal of hard currency and the arrests of Sergey Lisovskiy and Arkadiy Yestafyev during the presidential election campaign, Ekho Moskvy radio has reported.

As for the GKChP-3 [alleged plot], which was announced by Aleksandr Lebed, checks have discovered nothing about intentions by any of the officials of the Defense Ministry or the General Staff to organize a coup or to put the troops on alert. Because of the absence of an actual crime taking place, no criminal proceeding was instituted.

Russia: Date of Lebed's Chechen Visit Withheld on Security Grounds

LD1807133396 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1223 GMT 18 Jul 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Surzhanskiy]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 18 Jul (Itar-Tass) — The date for the visit to Chechnya by Aleksandr Lebed, secretary of the Russian Security Council and presidential aide, has not yet been fixed. He continues to study the situation in the Chechen republic. The Russian Security Council's press service reported this to an ITAR-TASS correspondent today.

The secretary of the Russian Security Council has stated his firm intention to visit Chechnya, the press service spokesman recalled. He said Aleksandr Lebed will do this when all the necessary information on the situation in the republic has been gathered and when there is a clear picture of what is happening in Chechnya.

Commenting on some media reports that the Security Council secretary's trip will take place on 20 July, the spokesman of the Russian Security Council's press service noted that "the date for Aleksandr Lebed's trip will not be announced beforehand in order to ensure security." He said the media's behavior in disseminating unverified information by referring to information obtained from third parties was "at the least improper."

Russia: State Duma Considering Changing Status of Chechnya

LD1907092896 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0816 GMT 19 Jul 96

[ITAR-TASS correspondent Natalya Kosyrev]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 19 Jul (Itar-Tass) — The state commission for the settlement of the crisis in the Chechen republic has decided that the peace talks provided for in the president's plan will be resumed in the future, Vyacheslav Mikhaylov, the minister for nationalities and federal relations, told a news conference today. He said that the leaders of the Chechen illegal armed formations had been informed of this.

As far as the constitutional and legal aspects of the presidential plan are concerned, the minister noted that a draft federal law on the procedure for changing the status of the Chechen republic is currently being examined in the State Duma. A treaty is being drawn up on delimiting powers and jurisdictions. This document has already been published and is being discussed in Chechnya. The issue of the need to adopt a constitution of the republic is being posed.

Vyacheslav Mikhaylov admitted that the social issue arising from insufficient financing remained an acute one just as before. Compensation, pensions, and wages are being paid in the republic nevertheless.

As far as the military issue is concerned, "the illegal armed formations have been neutralized," the nationalities minister stressed. However, the implementation of the plan had been disrupted with regard to the military issue. This was due to the fact that the Chechen separatists had failed to honor the accords signed in Moscow and Nazran.

Vyacheslav Mikhaylov said that the president's new peace plan for the second half of the year provides for job creation, the conducting of agricultural reforms in the Chechen republic, and drawing up a program to tackle young people's problems, education, and culture.

Russia: Duma Returns Bill on Human Rights Official to Commission

LD1907100196 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0937 GMT 19 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, July 19 (Interfax) — The Russian State Duma once again returned a federal constitutional bill "On a Human Rights Commissioner" to the conciliatory commission Friday. Earlier, the bill had been rejected by the upper parliament chamber (the Federation Council) and reworked by the conciliatory commission for over a month. The Duma rejected the new text of the bill on June 10 and returned it to the conciliatory commission.

Today amendments prepared by the conciliatory commission again failed to gain the support of 300 Duma deputies.

Presidential commissioner Aleksandr Kotenkov objected to the bill's provision on human rights commissioners in Russian territories and regions. The amendment was proposed by Tatar President Mintimer Shaymiyev.

Human rights activist Valeriy Borshchev did not agree with a provision which gives Russian citizens the right to appeal to the human rights commissioner only after their problems are considered by court or administrative bodies. Yelena Mizulina of the Yabloko faction said this limit was necessary to prevent "a flow of complaints" to the human rights commissioner.

The Liberal Democratic faction objected to "the whole concept of the law."

The Duma expanded the conciliatory commission and instructed it to prepare the draft by the beginning of the fall session.

Russia: Edict, Statute on Security Council Published

MM1807133996 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Jul 96 p 4

[Edict No. 1024 of the Russian Federation president "Questions of the Russian Federation Security Council" signed by Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin in the Kremlin, Moscow, on 10 July 1996 and followed by undated "Statute on the Russian Federation Security Council"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In accordance with Point "g" of Article 83 of the Russian Federation Constitution and the Russian Federation law "On Security," I rule that:

1. The attached Statute on the Russian Federation Security Council and the structure of the Russian Federation Security Council apparatus are to be approved.

2. The Russian Federation Security Council secretary is to submit:

proposals on the composition of the Russian Federation Security Council;

proposals on the organization of the Russian Federation Security Council's activities and its work schedule for the second half of 1996;

a draft statute on the Russian Federation Security Council apparatus;

proposals on the number and composition of Russian Federation Security Council interdepartmental commissions;

proposals on providing for the activities of the Russian Federation Security Council, its interdepartmental commissions, and the academic council under the Russian Federation Security Council;

proposals on bringing edicts and directives of the Russian Federation president into line with this edict.

3. This edict comes into force the day it is signed.

[Signed] Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin
[Dated] The Kremlin, Moscow, 10 July 1996

Statute on the Russian Federation Security Council

I. General Provisions

1. The Russian Federation Security Council (hereinafter Security Council) is a constitutional organ that prepares the Russian Federation president's decisions on questions of ensuring the protection of vitally important interests of the individual, society, and the state against internal and external threats and conducting a unified state policy in the sphere of safeguarding security.

2. The Security Council is formed by the Russian Federation president in accordance with the Russian Federation Constitution and Russian Federation law "On Security."

3. The legal foundation for the Security Council's activities is the Russian Federation Constitution, federal laws, Russian Federation international treaties on security matters, edicts and directives of the Russian Federation president, and also this Statute.

4. The Security Council is the organ that provides conditions for the Russian Federation president to exercise his constitutional powers to protect human and civil rights and the sovereignty of the Russian Federation and its independence and state integrity.

II. Security Council's Tasks

5. The Security Council's main tasks are to:

determine the vitally important interests of society and the state and identify internal and external threats to security;

elaborate the main areas of the strategy for safeguarding the security of the Russian Federation and organize the preparation of federal targeted programs to ensure it;

prepare recommendations for the Russian Federation president on decisions on matters of Russian Federation domestic and foreign policy in the sphere of safeguarding the security of the individual, society, and state;

prepare timely decisions on preventing emergency situations that might lead to significant sociopolitical, economic, military, ecological, and other consequences and on organizing their elimination;

prepare proposals for the Russian Federation president on the introduction, extension, or lifting of a state of emergency;

devise proposals on coordinating the activities of federal; organs of executive power and organs of executive power in the Russian Federation components in the process of implementing decisions made in the sphere of safeguarding security and assess their effectiveness;

improve the system for safeguarding security by elaborating proposals on reforming existing or creating new organs safeguarding the security of the individual, society, and the state.

III. Security Council's Functions

6. The Security Council's main functions are to:

examine matters of Russian Federation domestic, foreign, and military policy in the sphere of safeguarding the security of the individual, society, and the state, the country's defense capability, military-technical cooperation, the solution of strategic problems of state, economic, social, defense, ecological, and other types of security, forecasting of emergency situations, and adoption of measures to prevent them and eliminate their consequences;

prepare Russian Federation presidential decisions on matters of domestic, foreign, and military policy in the sphere of safeguarding the security of the individual, society, and the state, the country's defense capability, military-technical cooperation, introduction of economic sanctions, information development, and elaboration of a strategy to safeguard and measures to protect the Russian Federation's independence and state integrity;

examine draft laws on matters of domestic, foreign, and military policy in the sphere of safeguarding the security of the individual, society, and the state, the country's defense capability, military technical cooperation, the introduction of economic sanctions, the elaboration of a strategy to safeguard and measures to protect the Russian Federation's independence and state integrity, and the presentation of recommendations on them to the Russian Federation president;

prepare draft edicts of the Russian Federation president on matters of safeguarding the security of the individual, society, and the state, the country's defense capability, military-technical cooperation, development of global information systems, and monitoring of the activities of federal organs of executive power ensuring security;

organize and coordinate the elaboration of strategy in the sphere of domestic, foreign, and military policy, military-technical cooperation, and the Russian Federation's information security, assessment of internal and external threats to vitally important security interests, and identification of their sources;

monitor the implementation by federal organs of executive power and organs of executive power of the Russian Federation components of strategy in the sphere of domestic, foreign, and military policy, military-technical cooperation, and the Russian Federation's information security;

examine questions of creating, supervising, and maintaining the readiness and activities of forces and means of safeguarding security;

examine and assess information on the state of Russian Federation security and factors threatening it;

accumulate, analyze, and process information on the functioning of the system for safeguarding the Russian Federation's security, elaborate recommendations on its improvement, organize the elaboration of federal programs in the sphere of safeguarding security, and also assess their effectiveness;

organize the preparation of federal targeted programs for safeguarding security and monitoring of their implementation;

organize scientific research in the sphere of safeguarding the security of the individual, society, and the state;

solve other tasks in the sphere of safeguarding the security of the individual, society, and the state in accordance with Russian Federation legislation and the decisions of the Russian Federation president.

IV. Composition of the Security Council and Procedure for Forming It

7. The Security Council is formed in accordance with the Russian Federation Constitution and Russian Federation legislation.

Permanent members and members of the Security Council are appointed by the Russian Federation president at the suggestion of the Russian Federation Security Council secretary (hereinafter Security Council secretary).

V. Procedure for the Security Council's Work

8. The Security Council's work is directed by the chairman of the Russian Federation Security Council (hereinafter Security Council chairman).

The Security Council's work is carried out in accordance with schedules approved by the Security Council chairman.

9. Security Council sessions are held on a regular basis, at least once a month. If necessary, extraordinary sessions of the Security Council can be held.

The agenda and procedure for examining questions at the session are determined by the Security Council chairman at the suggestion of the Security Council secretary.

Security Council sessions are chaired by the Security Council chairman.

The Security Council secretary holds working conferences with members of the Security Council.

10. Permanent members and members of the Security Council must attend Security Council sessions. Permanent members and members of the Security Council are not allowed to delegate their powers on the Security Council to other officials.

11. Security Council decisions are made at a session by permanent members of the Security Council by a simple majority of the total number and enter into effect once they have been approved by the Security Council chairman.

Security Council decisions on very important matters are formalized by edicts of the Russian Federation president and other decisions by protocols.

Draft edicts of the Russian Federation president submitted to the Security Council are given a preliminary examination at a session of Security Council members directed by the Security Council chairman. Security Council members have equal rights when it comes to decisionmaking.

Depending on the content of the matter under scrutiny the Security Council can bring in other people to attend the sessions as consultants.

13. The Security Council secretary organizes the sessions and ensures that draft decisions are prepared.

VI. Security Council Secretary's Powers

14. The Security Council secretary is a Russian Federation official and is directly subordinate to the Russian Federation president.

The Security Council secretary is appointed and dismissed by the Russian Federation president.

15. The Security Council secretary ensures the activities of the Security Council and is in charge of its apparatus.

The Security Council secretary:

keeps the Russian Federation president informed about problems of the country's internal and external security, defense capability, military-technical cooperation, and development of global information systems;

consolidates and submits to the Security Council analytical surveys of information on the state of Russian Federation security;

prepares the Security Council's work schedule and creates the agenda for Security Council sessions;

coordinates the work of interdepartmental commissions of the Security Council, the academic council under the Security Council, and federal organs of executive power and organs of executive power of the Russian Federation components on the preparation of requisite materials for Security Council sessions;

prepares draft decisions of the Security Council;

organizes the elaboration of conceptual approaches to the shaping of strategy in the sphere of safeguarding the Russian Federation's security and proposals for the Russian Federation president's annual messages to the Russian Federation Federal Assembly on the state of the nation and on the main spheres of state domestic and foreign policy;

presents for approval by the Russian Federation president Security Council decisions and draft normative legal acts on their implementation;

monitors the implementation of Security Council decisions and checks the documents connected with the work of federal organs of executive power on safeguarding security;

coordinates work on elaborating and implementing federal targeted programs for safeguarding the security of the Russian Federation in the manner laid down by the Russian Federation president;

submits proposals to the Security Council on coordinating the activities of security forces in connection with emergencies;

represents the Russian Federation president's interests on matters of security in federal organs of state power and organs of state power in Russian Federation components;

submits to the Security Council proposals on the creation, functions, and composition of interdepartmental commissions of the Security Council and academic council under the Security Council;

organizes and coordinates the activities of interdepartmental commissions of the Security Council and academic council under the Security Council;

submits on behalf of the Russian Federation president to the Russian Federation president [as published] and the Security Council information on candidates recommended for appointment to top state posts;

organizes appraisals of draft decisions on security questions by federal organs of state power and organs of state power in Russian Federation components and the preparation and submission of their feasibility reports and findings for examination at Security Council sessions;

asks federal organs of executive power and organs of executive power in the Russian Federation components, institutions and organizations, and officials to supply the information, documents, and materials necessary for the Security Council and its apparatus to perform their activities;

brings in state and nonstate organizations, institutions and individual academics, and also individual experts to carry out research and expert studies;

presents to the Russian Federation president candidates for appointment to Security Council deputy secretary posts;

submits to the Russian Federation president proposals on the dismissals of Security Council deputy secretaries;

appoints and dismisses personnel of the Security Council apparatus, except for Security Council deputy secretaries;

explains decisions made by the Security Council on safeguarding the security of the individual, society, and the state;

implements and organizes the implementation of instructions from the Russian Federation president and Security Council relating to the sphere of safeguarding the security of the individual, society, and the state;

for the exercise of his powers issues orders and directives on the Security Council apparatus.

16. The Security Council secretary organizes collaboration between the Security Council apparatus and components of the Russian Federation Presidential Staff, Russian Federation Federal Assembly Federation Council Apparatus, Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma Apparatus, Russian Federation Government Apparatus, heads of federal organs of executive power and organs of executive power in the Russian Federation components, functional and regional associations and societies, representatives of labor collectives and business circles, political parties, and public and religious associations on questions which lie within the Security Council's terms of reference.

17. The Security Council secretary is personally responsible for ensuring the Security Council's activities and for the implementation of its decisions.

VII. Security Council Interdepartmental Commissions

18. The Security Council forms interdepartmental commissions in accordance with the main tasks and spheres of its activities.

Security Council interdepartmental commissions are the Security Council's basic working organs. Depending on the tasks they are given, they can be set up on a functional or regional basis and as permanent or temporary commissions.

19. The Security Council decides on the creation, functions, and composition of interdepartmental commissions at the suggestion of the Security Council secretary.

The Security Council, decides whether permanent and temporary interdepartmental commissions will be headed by members of the Security Council or people authorized by the Russian Federation president.

20. Permanent Security Council interdepartmental commissions prepare proposals and recommendations for the Security Council on the main areas of state policy in the sphere of safeguarding the security of the individual, society, and the state and help coordinate the activities of federal organs of executive power and organs of executive power in Russian Federation components on the implementation of federal targeted programs and Security Council decisions.

21. The Security Council can set up temporary interdepartmental commissions if there is a need for proposals to be elaborated on preventing emergency situations and eliminating their consequences, on individual problems to do with ensuring stability and law and order in society and the state, and on the protection of the constitutional system and the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Russian Federation.

22. Security Council interdepartmental commissions operate in accordance with the regulations on them approved by the Russian Federation president at the suggestion of the Security Council secretary and are entitled to submit to the Security Council for its examination any question that falls within their terms of reference.

23. Information analysis and technical organization backup for the activities of Security Council interdepartmental commissions are provided by federal organs of executive power, which have representatives working on these commissions, and also by the Security Council apparatus.

24. In their work Security Council permanent and temporary interdepartmental commissions will collaborate with the Security Council apparatus.

VIII. Ensuring Security Council Activities

25. The Security Council's activities are ensured by the Security Council apparatus.

The structure and establishment of the Security Council apparatus and also the statute on it are approved by the Russian Federation president at the suggestion of the Security Council secretary.

26. By decision of the Security Council secretary, within the limits laid down by the Security Council chairman, a number of senior officials in the Security Council apparatus can be replaced by assigning servicemen and personnel of Russian Federation internal affairs organs (federal organs of the tax police) to it.

27. Funding of activities to safeguard the security of the Russian Federation is carried out in accordance with the federal law. Security Council activities are financed by targeted federal budget funds.

Security Council apparatus activities are financed in accordance with the statute on the Security Council apparatus.

Military Issues

Russia: Yeltsin Presents Rodionov to Armed Forces' Top Leadership

MM1807192696 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 19 Jul 96 p 1

[Unattributed report: "President Boris Yeltsin Has Introduced Colonel General Igor Rodionov, the New Russian Federation Minister of Defense, to the Armed Forces' Top Leadership"]

[FBIS Translated Text] An out-of-town session of the Defense Ministry Collegium was held 18 July in the "Barvikha" Sanatorium near Moscow, where Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin is spending a short vacation. The supreme commander in chief introduced Colonel General Igor Rodionov, who was appointed Russia's minister of defense Wednesday, to the Armed Forces' top leadership.

In his speech the president said: "First of all, I wish to introduce to you Colonel General **Igor Nikolayevich Rodionov**, Russia's new minister of defense.

"You know him well. He has progressed consistently through all command posts. He was commander of the 40th Army in Afghanistan and commander of the Transcaucasus Military District. In recent years he has headed the General Staff Military Academy.

"The military department is faced with complex tasks today. Not everything in the building of the Russian Federation Armed Forces is shaping up favorably.

"There is still a big discrepancy between the **requirements** of maintaining the Russian Army and **the country's actual potential**.

"In recent years we have cut back the Russian Armed Forces by more than **1 million** servicemen. But this has **not reduced** the overall numerical strength of the state's military organization the way we expected.

"There is partial **disunity and lack of coordination** in the power structures' activity.

"I particularly wish to speak about the moral climate in the Army.

"Corruption is eating away at the officer corps like rust. It has not been possible to halt an ugly phenomenon — namely, the trade in weapons from Army depots. It is proving quite impossible to eradicate bullying among enlisted personnel.

"**Elementary order** must be instilled in the Army!

"**This is your paramount task**, Comrade Minister!

"I am deeply convinced that all these problems cannot be resolved by individual partial measures. **An in-depth military reform is needed.**

"Military reform is a **state task**, not just a matter for the military department alone.

"This is why I have decided to form the **Defense Council**. It must be **an organ to implement** the Security Council's strategic decisions in questions of defense security and control over the course of military building.

"The chief aim of the military reform is to create a **professional army** by the year 2000 in accordance with my edict. It must enjoy the people's support and respect and be provided with everything it needs. But at the same time it must not be an excessive burden on our society.

"Our country's actual might must be determined, above all, not by the troops' numerical strength but by a high degree of **organization, by training, and by a high level of technical equipment**.

"In building the Armed Forces it is necessary to **look to the long term** and not concentrate only on the current problems of the Army and Navy.

"This is what this means in practice.

"**First.** Central attention in the military reform must be devoted to **people**, to the servicemen and the civilian personnel of the Armed Forces.

"It is very important to create a flexible and fair **system of performing service** that is clear to the public and to servicemen. Priority in gaining further military ranks and in advancement through the service should be given to those who really bear the burdens of military service and who give their all to serving the fatherland.

"**Second.** Measures to ensure **social protection for officers, ensigns, and warrant officers transferred to the reserve** must be implemented in full. This is one of the most important tasks of the state's social policy. Therefore the funds for resolving this task must be **increased**. This must be done **outside the expenditure on national defense**.

"**Third.** The role of the **General Staff** must increase within the framework of the system of military management.

"The significance of the General Staff as the organ of direct, operational leadership of the Armed Forces must be enhanced. Above all, by increasing interbranch cooperation among forces and assets.

"Functions such as **the coordination of the formation and application of other Russian Federation troops** must be entrusted to the General Staff in peacetime.

"**Fourth.** The Ministry of Defense and the General Staff must ensure **the maximum level of technical equipment and strength level of combined units and units** in the most important areas of the Armed Forces' activity. This is to be done by reducing surplus and poorly manned units and formations which contribute little to the country's actual defense might.

"**Fifth.** In addition to maintaining **the potential for nuclear deterrence** at the proper level, more attention must be devoted to developing the entire **complex of means of information warfare, to high-precision weapons, to means of ensuring mobility, and to developing the defense infrastructure**.

"**Sixth.** Within the framework of overall defense spending it is necessary to increase the share of funds allocated to **research and development, to the modernization** of arms and military hardware, and to combat and operational training.

"Our task is to strengthen the **scientific and defense industrial potential** so that Russia can continue to **produce independently all the necessary types of armament and military hardware**.

"**Seventh.** The **system of military education** is in need of substantial improvement. It is necessary to enhance general educational training in military higher educational institutions and the legal education of officers. The role of leading civilian higher educational institutions in training, particularly the training of technical specialists, must increase.

"**Eighth.** Many points of Russian military theory and military art need revising.

"The building of the Armed Forces and the ensuring of Russia's defense security are inseparably linked with the expansion of military cooperation **with all states, particularly within the CIS framework**.

"The main areas of military policy are set forth in the Russian Federation president's **Message on National Security** to the Federal Assembly. In accordance with it, it is necessary to elaborate the main provisions of

military doctrine which were approved even before the new constitution was adopted.

"The Ministry of Defense must resolve all these tasks in close contact with the **Security Council**. In a military manner — efficiently and exactly.

"I wish the minister of defense and the members of the collegium success."

Russia: Favorable Profile of Rodionov Presented

MM1807160196 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 18 Jul 96 p 2

[Article by Igor Chernyak: "Rodionov Will Command the Parade. Russia Has a New Minister of Defense"]

[FBIS Translated Text] From KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA's file: Igor Nikolayevich Rodionov. Colonel general. Born 1 December 1936. Russian. Born in the village of Kurakino, Penza Oblast's Serdobskiy Rayon. Graduated in 1957 from Orel's M.V. Frunze Tank School, in 1970 from the R.Ya. Malinovskiy Military Academy of Armored Troops with a gold medal, and in 1980 from the General Staff Military Academy with a distinction.

He traveled the path from platoon commander to division commander. He served in the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany, the Central Group of Forces, and the Limited Contingent of Soviet Troops in Afghanistan. He was first deputy commander of Moscow Military District.

From May 1988 through August 1989 he was commander of the Transcaucasus Military District. He exercised overall leadership of the operation to disperse the participants in the unsanctioned rally in Tbilisi 8 April 1989, the decision on which was adopted by the leadership of the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee.

From 1989 he was chief of the General Staff Military Academy of the Armed Forces of the USSR and then of the Russian Federation. He was a USSR people's deputy from April 1989 through 1992.

He has been awarded the orders of the Red Banner, the Red Star, and "For Service to the Motherland in the USSR Armed Forces," second and third class, and eight medals.

...It is said that when Lev Rokhlin mentioned the name of Colonel General Rodionov (Yuriy) in his recent report on corruption, the telephone rang at night in the apartment of General Rodionov (Igor). It was his mother calling from Kiev, where the information about the generals' thieving had arrived only toward the end of the day: "Son, how could you?" The guys with the same surname really did prove to be different: One had honestly climbed all the rungs of the Army ladder, distinguished by modesty and asceticism in his daily life, while the other had leapfrogged through the ranks and posts, not without P. Grachev's assistance, had built dachas, and was not averse to earning a bit on the side. As distinct from Yuriy Rodionov, his namesake was never on the former minister's team and, moreover, was almost the only one of the present generals who could take the liberty of telling the truth, including the truth about the course of Grachev's "military reform." A tiny bit longer, and he would have said too much — Tretyakov, commander of the Transbaykal Military District, and Barynkin, chief of the General Staff Main Directorate for Operations, were already being considered for the post of chief of the General Staff Academy....

Pavel Grachev liked to emphasize that he had planted "his" people everywhere. Igor Rodionov can also say that "his" people are seated in all key posts in the Ministry of Defense and the General Staff today, the only difference being that they are all not his "proteges" but his graduates and pupils. During his seven-year command of the General Staff Academy Rodionov created a unique scientific school there, which increased the brainpower of more than 100 Russian generals.

Rodionov has many ties to Lebed. Recent pointers include the fact that the new minister of defense was one of the few military chiefs to openly set about helping the Congress of Russian Communities and then also Lebed personally to draw up the military theory part of the election program. This probably was not accidental: The present Security Council secretary was essentially the only person at the party congress to come out openly in Rodionov's defense after the events in Tbilisi, when Gorbachev, as usual, shifted onto the shoulders of the military the responsibility for what had been done. It should only have been said that no general was capable at that time of bringing troops out onto the street without a decision by the top party leadership.

What is the worth of the charges against Rodionov that the largest number of casualties allegedly occurred in Afghanistan under him? (Incidentally, only recently the same charge was laid at the door of B. Gromov.) This is intended for naive people: Anyone who went "across the river" knows that the peak intensity of U.S. aid for the mujahidin was observed during 1984-1986 (it was then that Stingers and Blowpipes began to appear there) and that the scale of combat operations against the 40th Army widened noticeably at that time. It is possible to find in any open sources on the Afghan war the information that Rodionov, unlike his predecessors, set the task of conducting operations even without minimal losses and that these losses diminished on his arrival in Kabul.

"Throughout recent years the press has not carried a single report speaking of Igor Rodionov's personal immodesty," a General Staff officer said. "He lives in an old apartment, although he has had enough opportunities for expansion. He has an official dacha, and he has not built a dacha for $1 million. He has maintained good relations with M. Kolesnikov, V. Mironov, B. Gromov, L. Rokhlin, and other decent generals. You cannot call him a teetotaler, but no one has ever seen him drunk either. He has never tried to ingratiate himself with anyone, and when there was no money to pay the wages of the academy's students he was not afraid to call any offices, even over Grachev's head. In general, if you compare the present minister and the former minister — excuse the crudity — they are like the Ostankino Tower and a roadside post...."

Russia: 'Vremya' Program Examines New Defense Minister's Intentions

LD1807211996 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 18 Jul 96

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The job of the Defense Council will be to promote reform of the Army. Not a great deal is known at the moment about how the new defense minister [Colonel General Igor Rodionov] sees these reforms. Since taking up his new post, Rodionov has not yet said anything on this subject. But Gen. Rodionov's thoughts on military reform have been published several times during the last two years. This gives us some idea of what the minister intends.

[Correspondent Nikolay Ivanov] First and foremost the general sees a distinction between military reform as a process to be carried out on a nationwide scale and reform of the Armed Forces as a component of military reform. Guidelines for military reform are being drafted on the basis of this distinction. The first of these is political. The new defense minister has to be congratulated. Having scarcely taken up office, he has already seen the embodiment of his dream. A Defense Council has been set up. Another of the general's ideas has also found support. Boris Yeltsin said the role of the General Staff needed to be increased — something that Rodionov has advocated on several occasions.

According to Rodionov, the economic aspect of military reform largely presupposes restructuring of the military-industrial sector. As you would expect of a military man, the general has given a clear-cut outline of his ideas on how military reform should be funded. Our market economy should be forced — through legislative and economic levers of course — to do its bit for defense. This pronouncement will, unquestionably, please many entrepreneurs.

The purely military aspect of reform gives priority to the development of strategic nuclear forces. Gen. Rodionov, who opposes ratification of the START II Treaty, has long supported these forces. At the same time he advocates the preservation of the five traditional branches of the Armed Forces and insists that the most important forces to be preserved are those that deter aggressors, namely the strategic rocket forces, air defense forces, intelligence and radioelectronic warfare. The new minister is not so keen on the idea of a small army recruited solely by contract. He favors the revival of the prestige attached to military service.

It is symptomatic that the general is proposing that ideology be one component of military reform. Rodionov considers that depoliticization and deideologization of the Army has been a dangerous mistake. He is alarmed by the people's low level of defense awareness. Therefore, it is self-evident that military and patriotic education of young people must be stepped up.

Russia: Su-27 Deal With PRC Highlights Defense Industry Problems

MK1807135796 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 18 Jul 96 p 2

[Report by Andrey Bagrov: "Each Propeller Reeks of Scandal"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Recently Russian authorities have clearly begun to take a more optimistic view of the prospects of the military-industrial complex. They are especially encouraged by the growing revenues from arms export. Yet it should not be forgotten that the military-industrial complex has always been the quintessence of the Soviet system — both from the point of view of cadre selection and from the point of view of economic efficacy. When defense enterprise directors were allowed to engage in commercial activity, their activity turned out to be quite Soviet. A good case in point is the sale of the Su-27 production license to China.

The possibility of the sale of the Su-27 production license was raised for the first time at negotiations with the PRC in 1992. Mikhail Simonov, general director of the Sukhoy Design Bureau, took a very active part in it. In 1995 the license contract was officially signed, and in 1999 China will be able to produce the first such fighter under license. Initially, Simonov justified himself before First Deputy Premier Oleg Soskovets, contending that the word "license" had popped up at the negotiations all by itself, in spite of his will. But then Simonov stopped being modest and began to tout the license contract as his own achievement. Soskovets, for his part, started to describe the license deal with China as a major breakthrough by the Russian military-industrial complex.

Military-industrial complex experts thus comment on the position of Simonov and Soskovets: "When an obviously stupid thing has been done and nothing can be done to correct it, all that is left is to declare it a victory." Why do aviation industry specialists consider the license sale an act of outrageous stupidity? First of all, they point to the fact that the license contract deprives Russian series production plants of the possibility to manufacture and export $1.2 billion worth of fighters: Its own production will enable the PRC to abandon its former plans to buy at least 50 Su-27's in Russia in the next five years.

This does not take care of all possible losses. By introducing minimal changes into the Su-27 design (for instance, installing a new radar), the PRC can launch the series production of the fighter under an original Chinese name and thus overcome the license limitations on the number of aircraft that may be produced (not more than 50 in one year; 200 in all). As a result the fighters produced in China could be exported, competing with the Russian Su-27 on the Asian market. (It will be appropriate to recall here instances of extensive sales on the world market of Chinese-made Kalashnikov automatic rifles and "Grad" multiple rocket launchers).

Experts especially note that under the license agreement, China gets access to unique technology for the production of titanium structures that make it possible to copy the Su-27 even in the event that Russia refuses to supply components. According to some forecasts, in three to four years China will be able to start a redivision of the military aviation market, while the export of each Chinese-made Su-27 will lose $25 million for Russia.

And finally, the most unpleasant aspect of the deal, in the opinion of military-industrial complex experts, is that the Su-27 is the basic model for all powerful "fourth-generation" Russian fighter aircraft. Consequently, the world market will, to a substantial extent, be lost to them as well. A possible way out could be the appearance of a "fifth-generation" Russian fighter, but experts are convinced that Mikhail Simonov will not be able to ensure its series production within the next 10 years. Thus far not even a prototype has been tested. Meanwhile there is an enormous distance between a prototype and series production. The U.S. prototype of a "fifth-generation" multimission combat aircraft, the F-22, first took off in 1992, but according to Lockheed the F-22 will not be adopted before the year 2000. The French "fifth-generation" fighter aircraft, Rafale, took off in 1986, but the Dassault company does not intend to transfer it to the armed forces until the year 2001.

How did it happen that the state corporation Rosvooruzheniye, the first deputy premier, and the Security Council allowed this deal to go ahead? The Russian Security Council wanted to look into the circumstances of the license transfer, but its special session, scheduled for February 1996, did not take place. Even so, not the least role could have been played by the following circumstance. After the word "license" was first pronounced at the negotiations, PRC representatives refused to discuss any other options, while the Russian side was very anxious to be able to report the conclusion of a $1.5 billion contract. Moreover, Mikhail Simonov is renowned for his ability to mesmerize his interlocutor with his grand plans and projects for future aircraft — with amazing technical specifications. It is quite likely that after listening to Simonov, Oleg Soskovets believed in the reality of an early replacement of the Su-27 with a more powerful "fifth generation" fighter.

It is noteworthy that Mikhail Simonov took up the post of general designer of the Sukhoy Bureau in 1983; that is, when all the basic combat aircraft models, which are currently being modernized by the bureau, were already created. To be sure, there have been attempts to create something new, but they proved unsuccessful. One example of this is the attempt to create a Russian counterpart of the U.S. F-117 stealth assault aircraft (the development of the F-117 began in 1978; it went up into the air in 1981, and at present there are approximately 60 such aircraft in service with the U.S. Air Force). According to one aviation expert, Mikhail Simonov is prolific in paper fantasies: "He has initiated many superb projects but produced no superb aircraft."

To sum up, the situation in the Russian military-industrial complex remains difficult: what with the directors and chief designers who are for the most part leftovers from the Soviet times; the intricate intertwining of the interests of the directors corps and high-level officials, and professional incompetence. The latest upsurge of enthusiasm over the military-industrial complex's export prospects, and the struggle between new Security Council Secretary Aleksandr Lebed and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin for control of Russian arms production and exports will hardly be conducive to normalizing the situation in the industry.

Federal Assembly

Russia: State Duma Urges Ukraine To Halt Sale of Two Ships

LD1807182296 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1751 GMT 18 Jul 96

[By Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, July 18 (Itar-Tass) — The Russian State Duma has called on Ukrainian president Leonid Kuchma and Ukrainian parliament to break off the deal involving the sale of ships "Cosmonaut Yuriy Gagarin" and "Academician Sergey Korolev" to a foreign company.

An address to the Ukrainian president and Ukrainian lawmakers adopted by the State Duma today says that the State Duma "was deeply concerned over the fact that the flagships of our space engineering have been sold practically for naught — five million dollars. Both ships were created by common efforts of the people of Ukraine, Russia and all CIS states," the address said. In this connection, "Russian lawmakers cannot silently watch the two ships, which generously contributed to human cognition and which became defenseless now, disappear."

The Russian lawmakers have put forward an initiative to create a Fund with public assistance for the salvation of the two famous ships. Both "Yuriy Gagarin" and "Sergey Korolev" should stay at home to be a symbol of the space epoch in which the people of our countries were forerunners," the address said.

Russia: Federation Council Passes No Decision on Chechnya

LD1807111296 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1031 GMT 18 Jul 96

[By Lyudmila Yermakova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW July 18 (Itar-Tass) — The upper house of the Russian parliament passed no decision on the situation in Chechnya on Thursday and the initiator of the discussion remained dissatisfied with its results.

"The Federation Council pretended that nothing was happening (in Chechnya)", Ruslan Aushev, the president of Ingushetia, which borders on Chechnya, commented to Tass.

He added that the talk should be not only about Chechnya, but also about five other Caucasian republics where the situation "causes deep concern".

The session of the Federation Council was addressed by first deputy premier Oleg Lobov who said the "separatist regime had been neutralised and the bodies of authority were being formed in the republic".

Lobov, however, admitted that the separatists continued resistance and said 40 groups numbering 15-20 people, as well as two-three thousand scattered militants were fighting Russian troops in the republic.

Russia: Deputy Premier: Troops in Chechnya Protect Civilians

LD1807114696 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1043 GMT 18 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, July 18 (Interfax) — The joint contingent of federal forces in Chechnya ensures the safety of local residents and helps the Chechens to create legitimate bodies of power, Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Lobov told the upper house of the national legislature, the Federation Council, Thursday.

Lobov sees "a breakthrough" in the developments in Chechnya.

"The basic potential of the illegal armed opposition has been broken and moves for the realization of the presidential scenario for a Chechen settlement have made it possible to neutralize the armed opposition and preserve the territorial integrity of this country," Lobov said.

About 40 units, each with a strength of 15-20 men, and about 1,500 "independently acting fighters" are operating in Chechnya, Lobov said.

Talks at the level of working groups should continue and focus, for example, on the release of prisoners, field commanders should be invited to join the negotiations and federal emissaries should communicate directly with the local residents, Lobov said.

Lobov called for municipal elections in Chechnya and the conclusion of an agreement on the division of powers between Groznyy and Moscow.

He suggested that Chechnya enjoy a special status inside the Russian Federation and be exempted, for the next five years, from remitting money to the federal budget.

Now that 70 percent of Chechens have no jobs, Moscow should focus, first and foremost, on social and job creation programs, Lobov also said.

Russia: Duma Deputies Seek To 'Internationalize' Chechnya

LD1807190796 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1800 GMT 18 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A number of State Duma deputies belonging to various factions, as well as independent deputies, today appealed to the heads of democratic states and their parliaments to consider the possibility of recognizing the independence of the self-proclaimed Chechen Republic of Ichkeria. State Duma deputy Konstantin Borovoy is among those deputies who signed the appeal.

[Begin Borovoy recording] The appeal, in general, is a call for help as we consider that really all possibilities to influence this situation are exhausted and the president has not fulfilled the undertaking that he gave during his election campaign. Combat actions have been significantly stepped up. We are not raising the issue of the recognition of the independence of the Chechen Republic. We are raising the issue of a consideration of this problem and this possibility by the various parliaments. This will make it possible to internationalize the problem and involve international institutions. [end recording]

Russia: Duma Approves Law on Protection of Russian Interests

LD1907090296 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0826 GMT 19 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, July 19 (Interfax) — The Russian State Duma basically approved a law "On protection of Russian economic interests in foreign trade" on Friday.

It was supported by 305 deputies and submitted to the Federation Council (the upper parliament chamber).

The bill says it "aims to protect the Russian economy from foreign competition."

The draft law instructs the Cabinet to take protectionist measures in situations where any commodity is imported to Russia in such amounts or under such conditions as may harm the domestic production. These measures could take the form of an import quota or a temporary special customs tariff to be introduced for no more than 200 days.

Such measures are not to be taken with regard to commodities "imported from less developed countries" recognized as such by the United Nations.

Russia: Duma Votes To Raise Minimum Pension

LD1907110096 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1049 GMT 19 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, July 19 (Interfax) — The Russian State Duma has basically approved a law to raise the minimum pension from 75,900 rubles to 95,320 rubles on August 1, 1996. All pensions will be increased by 37 percent.

The bill was supported by 273 deputies, two abstained.

The Duma ignored the opinion of the bill's initiator, Chairman of the Duma Labor Committee Sergey Kalashnikov of the Liberal Democratic faction, who changed his opinion and said the committee did not know "about the catastrophic situation with payment of pensions" when it prepared the bill. Despite the fact that the Pension Fund has taken 3 trillion ruble credits from commercial banks, 10-15 percent of June pensions have not been paid, he said.

Chairman of the Pension Fund Vasiliy Barchuk warned Duma deputies that the bill will require additional expenditure of 15 trillion rubles before the end of this year. He said almost 32 million pensioners will receive their August pensions only in November if the law enters into force.

The bill was submitted to the Federation Council, the upper parliament chamber, for discussion.

Russia: State Duma Amends Law on Interior Ministry Troops

LD1807150396 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1430 GMT 18 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, July 18 (Interfax) — The Russian State Duma approved on the first reading Thursday amendments to the law "On the Russian Interior Ministry Troops."

The amendments update the 1992 law in accordance with the new legal realities and the concept of the Interior Ministry troops development, the troops commander, Col. Gen. Anatoliy Shkirko, told Interfax and Ekho Moskvy.

The amendments broaden the troops' sphere of activity. "We want to pass from assisting Interior Ministry agencies to joint participation in law enforcement," said Shkirko.

Currently, an Interior Ministry troop serviceman cannot carry out law enforcement tasks if he is not accompanied by an Interior Ministry official.

The amendments give such servicemen the right "to demand that citizens and officials maintain public order, to prevent crimes and administrative offenses, and check citizens' and officials' IDs if there are sufficient grounds to suspect them of having committed a crime." Interior Ministry troops also are empowered to detain people who have committed an administrative offense and to turn them over to the police.

Regional Affairs

Russia: Raduyev Holds News Conference, Swears Dudayev Alive

LD1807193996 Moscow NTV in Russian 1800 GMT 18 Jul 96

[From the "Segodnya" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] A new, old player reappeared on the Chechen stage today: Salman Raduyev, reported to have been killed, has given an interview to foreign journalists. We have just received the following video footage from the REUTER agency.

Raduyev's news conference was held today at a settlement in southeast Chechnya. Until now he was reported to have been killed in an assassination attempt. According to Raduyev, gravely wounded, he was transported to Germany and had a full course of medical treatment there. He said the Arabic countries would have been happy to help him but Raduyev had not been satisfied with the standard of medical treatment in the Islamic world.

Raduyev looked very cheerful and defiant. He said straightaway that for him all the agreements signed between the armed opposition and the Russian leaders were invalid and that his detachment would pursue an independent policy.

[Begin Raduyev recording] I have already given orders to all the units to start wide-scale military operations. There can be no talks. The war will continue until the victorious end. [end recording]

According to Raduyev, he has brought with him 10 Stinger missile systems and an agreement from 800 Islamic mercenaries who were fighting in Bosnia to help him. Raduyev believes that Dzhokhar Dudayev is also alive.

[Begin Raduyev recording] The Koran is the most sacred thing for us, the people of Islam. I swear by Allah, Dzhokhar Dudayev is alive. [end recording]

This, however, contradicts what Aslan Maskhadov [chief of staff of Chechen rebel armed formations] and Dudayev's wife said. It is not ruled out that Raduyev is trying to use his resurrection to create a myth that Chechen leaders are immortal. [video shows Raduyev wearing sunglasses and a black beret, scarcely recognizable, sitting at a table with Chechen banner as background addressing journalists]

Russia: Raduyev Says Russia 'Will Still Pay' for Dudayev's Life

LD1807212796 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1955 GMT 18 Jul 96

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] This evening the ASSOCIATED PRESS television agency showed footage purporting to be a big sensation. The agency's correspondent managed to film, it was claimed, the Chechen field commander Salman Raduyev, who is allegedly still alive. We will now show you a fragment of this interview, and let those who remember the face of the "hero" of the events at the Dagestani village of Pervomayskoye decide whether or not it is Raduyev. [video shows a bearded man in sunglasses and uniform seated and speaking to camera]

[Begin Raduyev recording] I swear to Allah, Dzhokhar Dudayev is alive. I swear to Allah. Everything else is a matter of time. Some of our men were also very hasty in thinking him dead. Our men were also hasty. This is all the will of Allah. So I have received orders from him [Dudayev], which I will carry out at all costs. Russia will still pay for the attempt on his life. [end recording]

It is quite possible that this is a normal television canard. We will soon find out. However, you will agree that the words of this person in Chechnya instill, of course, little optimism.

Russia: Stepashin Describes 'Resurrected' Raduyev as Lookalike

LD1907084496 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0722 GMT 19 Jul 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nadezhda Anisimova]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 19 Jul (Itar-Tass) — "I am 100 percent certain that Dzhokhar Dudayev is not alive," Sergey Stepashin, executive secretary of the State Commission for a Settlement in Chechnya, told a news conference in Moscow today. Therefore, in his opinion, the statement on television on 18 July by a "suddenly resurrected" Salman Raduyev that the former leader of the Chechen separatists is alive cannot be taken seriously.

Nor does Sergey Stepashin believe that it was really Raduyev who appeared in front of the television cameras, although the person was similar in appearance to the terrorist, who became well-known in January thanks to the bloody actions linked with the seizure of hostages in Kizlyar and the village of Pervomayskoye.

At the same time, the executive secretary of the State Commission for a Settlement in Chechnya expressed the view that Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev and Aslan Maskhadov are not in control of the situation now existing among the rebels. The state commission has been asking Yandarbiyev how real his influence is, but has received no reply. "We received only silent confirmation of the fact that these outlaws are an independent and extremely dangerous active force," Sergey Stepashin emphasized.

Russia: Chechnya Authorities View Raduyev's 'Propagandist Trick'

LD1807204796 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2004 GMT 18 Jul 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Zagnoyko]

[FBIS Translated Text] Groznyy, 18 Jul (Itar-Tass) — The Chechen field commander who led the band which seized the hospital in the Dagestani town of Kizlyar in January 1996 taking hundreds of people hostage and who then was said to have been killed in one of the internal sorting-out rows among Chechen separatists, faced western journalists today. He held a news conference near Gudermes, the second largest Chechen town.

A video tape with his speech was shown on Groznyy television tonight. Raduyev said that he had undergone a course of medical treatment in Germany after being seriously wounded.

People who have known him personally testify to the fact that Raduyev sounds quite convincing when he says that he has had plastic surgery. Raduyev has called for the continuation of armed resistance "to the victorious end".

The 28-year-old Raduyev who is Dudayev's relative said that Dudayev is alive. This is contrary to the testimonies of Yandarbiyev, Maskhadov, and other Chechen separatist leaders as well as Dudayev's wife.

Sources close to the government of Chechnya believe that this address by Raduyev or somebody who wants to pass himself off as Raduyev is "a propagandist trick aimed at securing moral support for separatists."

Russia: Chechen Commander Claims Raduyev Alive, Active

MM1807221896 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 19 Jul 96 p 1

[Vadim Belykh report: "Salman Raduyev Is Alive, Back in Chechnya, and Preparing the Latest Act of Sabotage"]

[FBIS Translated Text]

A Partisan's Second Birth

"Be in no doubt, our Salman Raduyev is alive. He has even grown more handsome than before. He now has a false plastic eye. They've made him a new nose," Musa Charayev, a commander of the southeastern front of Ichkeria's military forces lit his next cigarette and then finished his brief monologue. "And what is most important, he is now with us. So everything is fine."

We are sitting in the shade of a large tree on the outskirts of one of the settlements in southern Chechnya. Not far away is the temporary headquarters of Geliskhanov, the recent chairman of Ichkeria's department of state security. However, it is also only a stone's throw from here to the federal forces. Even the unaided eye can clearly see the barrels of the guns, and the silhouettes of soldiers in the wooded areas between the hills....

So what about Raduyev, Dudayev's field commander, who became known to Russia and the world after the armed actions on the territory of Dagestan, in Kizlyar, and Pervomayskoye? According to the military leaders of the unrecognized republic of Ichkeria, his life indeed hung by a thread.

As my interlocutors assert, subunits of Russian special troops to a considerable degree composed of representatives of the peoples of the North Caucasus, set up an ambush on the road. Strictly speaking they were hunting for Shamil Basayev, but by coincidence Salman Raduyev, commander of the southwestern front, fell into the trap.

Together with another field commander, Umarkhadzhi, nicknamed Batya, and his protection team, he was traveling on an army UAZ-452 all-terrain bus.. The special troops opened fire at a distance of about 100 meters. Five gunmen were killed virtually on the spot. Batya died too. The shell went right through his head and hit Raduyev sitting alongside in the face, taking out his eye and almost totally destroying his nose. The UAZ managed to break out of the shooting but they did not get far in it because it overturned. The surviving gunmen, grabbing the crippled Raduyev who was pouring with blood and who had received several more bullet wounds, and escaped.

Then the field commander, in an extremely grave condition, was taken across Azerbaijani territory to one of the near east countries.. There his wounds were healed and he underwent plastic surgery to restore his nose.. Early in July Salman Raduyev returned to Chechnya and took up his post again as commander of the southwestern front....

It remains an open question as to how far the information about the fact that "terrorist no. 2" is alive as before and is again preparing to inflict strikes against Russian troops can be trusted.

Musa Charayev, deputy commander of the south-eastern front was commander of a battalion for a long time under Raduyev. With him he participated in the attack on Kizlyar and the capture of Pervomayskoye. It is hard not to believe his words that his former commander and personal friend is alive and that he has already met on several occasions with him since his return. This information is also confirmed by people from the entourage of the recent leader of the State Security Department of Chechnya, Geliskhanov. There is information that the commander of the southeastern front Israpilov Khunkerpasha was drawing up plans with Salman Raduyev 12-13 July for countering the federal forces in the blockade of the villages in southern Chechnya....

Expect an Answer

Mistrust of me did not do away with the traditions of local hospitality. Tea, bread, sour cream, curds, and fresh cucumbers were brought from somewhere. The simple food was spread on an improvised table at which about 15 men sat down. They were dressed in various kinds of clothing. There were men in camouflage with green velvet berets on their heads. But the majority were wearing modest civilian clothing. It was difficult to make a snap judgment as to who was a gunman and who was a local sympathizer.

The deputy commander himself wore black pants and a T-shirt. Only the broad leather belt from which hung a Stechkin pistol marked him out as belonging to the military caste.

The trolleybuses in Moscow were not our work," Charayev tries to persuade me. "We will not be engaging in trifles like that. We know where you have something worthwhile that can be blown up and how it is protected. But for the moment we don't want to do that. But you will very soon be hearing about Salman Raduyev, and how....

From the remarks of those assembled, I realized that some major act of sabotage is being prepared, possibly on Russian territory. And it is Salman Raduyev who will be managing this.

Judging by the conversations with the gunmen's commander, armed detachments of Yandarbiyev and Maskhadov are now switching to some new tactics for their actions. According to them this will be something between a positional war and a guerrilla war with a strong leaning toward large-scale sabotage activity.

As I realized, the armed supporters of Chechnya's independence have already virtually abandoned basing immediately within populated points.. As far as possible they will begin avoiding exchanging fire with federal forces in the villages. All this is aimed at avoiding numerous blockades, sweeps, and passport checks.

However, this is of little help. Any Chechen village can at virtually any time be bombarded by mortars and artillery or subjected to air attack. There are no longer any populated points where you cannot see destroyed homes and hear numerous accounts of children, women, and old folk crippled and killed.through no fault of theirs ...

Intensive fire against Chechen villages is being conducted using Grad launchers and howitzers from the territory of Dagestan which it is difficult to call by any other name than an obvious provocation.

However, the chaotic lobbing of shells, missiles, mortars and bombs is most likely aimed at exerting a psychological pressure on the local population. When on Chechnya's territory, it is impossible to be sure even for a second that a heavy demolition charge will not come down on your head or that your vehicle will not be riddled with bullets from a helicopter that has appeared out of nowhere.

When it is really necessary the federal troops can be exclusively accurate in their fire; true, in a quite unique way. The house of the local military commandant in a certain village was destroyed by just one guided missile fired from a helicopter. The commandant himself, out fighting, was virtually never at home, and it was virtually impossible to catch him there. But it was just a miracle that his large family was not buried under the debris.

Life Amid Blood

In general a trip through Chechnya leaves a quite strange impression and you cannot talk of any kind of control over this territory by the federal troops. Green flags hang from the combine harvesters that are harvesting the wheat. Long iron poles decorated with "gazavaty" to indicate that people who have fallen in battle are buried here, have been set up on many graves in the cemeteries.

Every other day, when switching on the television you can look at Yandarbiyev, Maskhadov, and other field commanders for a couple of hours at a time — the "television channel of Independent Ichkeria" is functioning. And when there is no television there is independent radio, independent newspapers, and magazines.

There are small bazaars everywhere with heaps of local and colonial goods. Here you can buy audiocassettes with studio-standard recordings of songs about the Chechens' struggle against the occupiers which strengthen morale and increase the hatred for the adversary. They are performed in Russian and in the Chechen language These same songs ring out from the windows of houses and passing cars.

You can buy anything except alcohol. Regardless of anything, today a large part of Chechnya lives according to the Shari'a. The first time you get caught smelling of wine you get 40 blows on your backside with a stick, and the second time 80. An even stricter punishment is reserved for a dealer in vodka. A thief gets his hand cut off. A murderer is killed.

Detachments of gunmen specially set up on the orders of Yandarbiyev maintain order and it is their task to combat "terrorism, espionage and gangster formations." Amidst all this stand the subunits of Russian troops trying for the time being not to interfere in anything on the territory "assigned" to them. From my personal observations I can judge that if anyone has no problem getting round the fortified emplacements, it is the gunmen. As a rule everything is limited to an exchange of jokes. But another section of the population which is not participating in the war, are sropped and checked at these fortified posts, mainly on an economic basis. For a light car to pass it costs 10,000 rubles (R), for a KAMAZ truck the charge is R100,000....

Then the artillery shelling and bombardments begin, the "blocking" troops are drawn up , and everything begins whirling in one fiery carousel.. Cannonades thunder, houses, tanks, cars blaze, there are dozens killed on both sides, and peaceful civilians are beaten and crippled. Then everything stops. The main mass of troops move off further away, and local life returns to the same familiar routine, with the same laws, customs, the Shari'a, the nonacceptance of the Russian authorities, and this life merely becomes still more suffused with hatred for the Russian troops and specifically for ethnic Russians.

Don't Offer Peanuts

The Chechen gunmen do not take soldiers serving under contract as prisoners, and vice versa. The very word "serving under contract" immediately provokes a sharp and fierce reaction. All Chechens are to a man convinced that these are for the most part men with a criminal past and similarly a criminal present who have volunteered to take part in the war in Chechnya instead of serving out their criminal sentence in prison.

Second in line for hatred are airmen. But here the reasons are more likely psychological. Most likely more damaged homes, killed and crippled civilians, and killed gunmen lie on the conscience of artillerymen. But it is as if they cannot be discerned amid the explosions.

On the other hand a military aircraft with which it is impossible to be on equal terms, raining shells, rockets and bombs down on you from above generates a far more focused reaction.

To judge by all accounts the gunmen now hold many Russian prisoners of war of the most diverse combat arms and ranks and everything happening around them often becomes the subject of the most unreserved bargaining. The commandant, called Khasbulat, of a Chechen settlement tried to persuade me that the bulk of the prisoners were of little interest to the Russian command.

"When we meet at the negotiations," he explained, "they immediately declare: 'Don't offer us peanuts.' And 'peanuts' in their jargon means prisoners lower in rank than a major. Although there was a paratrooper, a lieutenant, over whom they took simply extraordinary pains and it was said that he came from a very powerful family."

It transpires that high positions and rank do not always help. According to what the gunmen assert, they had a deputy commander of a division as a prisoner — Lieutenant Colonel Omelchenko — whom in no way were they going to hand back to the Russian authorities. No way. And the reason for that remains a mystery.

Most likely these notes cannot claim to be comprehensively objective. The very same events can be seen in different ways from the windows of a Chechen home or from the firing ports of the federal troops' armored personnel carriers. There is just one thing that they see in common — the enduring and senseless horror of the almost two-years war.

Russia: Political Will Said Needed To Settle Chechen War

MM1807152796 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 Jul 96 p 1

[Interview with Major General Vladimir Shamanov, commander of the Russian Federation Defense Ministry force grouping in Chechnya, by Anatoliy Borovkov in Groznyy; date not given: "Chechnya: Tension Persists"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Despite the latest positive changes the situation in the Chechen Republic on the whole remains complex and tense. The successful operation by federal forces to cut off and destroy a large grouping of gunmen in the settlement of Makhkety, along with their powerful radio transmitting center and control center, and several arms and ammunition dumps, has sown panic in the separatists' camp.

Our correspondent met with Major General Vladimir Shamanov, commander of the Russian Federation Defense Ministry force grouping in Chechnya, and asked him to describe the situation in Chechnya.

[Shamanov] Throughout the armed conflict in Chechnya the situation has developed spasmodically. Our forces' successful actions have alternated with incomprehensible stoppages, which has given the opposing side the opportunity to regroup and concentrate in new areas, to rearm, and finally to switch to guerrilla tactics practically throughout the republic's territory. Naturally this has unsettled us. Combat operations have now entered the final phase following the destruction of the separatists' base area. Search and destroy missions against small bandit groups and all kinds of ambushes on convoy routes are continuing. Mine warfare is being employed. I want to say that we have already learned how to efficiently counter and anticipate the gunmen's many cunning traps. It is no accident (and this is the most pleasing thing) that our combat losses have considerably decreased.

[Borovkov] Vladimir Anatolyevich, extremely harsh comments have recently been made about you by the separatists' camp.. What is your reaction to this?

[Shamanov] All in all I could not give a damn about it. Throughout the year and a half I have been here I have never fought the peaceful population and I have not once given the order to open fired on homes and buildings unless we were being shot at from them. Chechen "patriots" and "guardians of the fate of their people" with guns in their hands are not engaging in open warfare but are hiding like cowards behind the same peaceful inhabitants, forcing them at gunpoint or at the end of a rifle butt to fight the federal forces. Just who is "murderer No. 1 of the Chechen people?" — me or them? Who is operating in an underhand way, sheltering behind fiery speeches about the love of peace while constantly wrecking the peace talks? They do not frighten me. While I have a mandate to direct the federal forces' actions here, while I am responsible for the lives of Russian soldiers and officers and for the way the situation develops, I will destroy armed bandits in order to establish peace and tranquillity in this land. The rest is a matter for politicians.

[Borovkov] Maybe Aleksandr Lebed's scheduled visit here will change the political and peacekeeping situation for the better?

[Shamanov] I have known General Lebed for a long time. At one time we even commanded companies in the same regiment. I know him to be a firm, honest, and courageous man, a real patriot. I believe he will be able to gain a real understanding of the essence of the Chechen war in general and the current situation in particular. There is no need to teach him this, and we will do all we can to help. The main thing is that fundamental improvements be made.

[Borovkov] Vladimir Anatolyevich, as a military man and a man with a fair amount of combat experience could you please assess the forces' actions right now compared with the initial period?

[Shamanov] Naturally, there have been great changes for the better. We are now effectively using high-precision weapons, air assaults, and infantry flanking [pesheobkhodyashchiye] detachments in mountainous and forested terrain. All this makes it possible to achieve success in various situations. The contingent of both officers and soldiers has become considerably stronger, gained the necessary experience, and, as the saying goes, has grown into the situation. In the light of past combat operations we have made changes to the communications control system and are devoting much attention to the timely and comprehensive preparation of any operation, the careful assignment of men and equipment, constant reconnaissance, and the organization of collaboration. It would seem that these are the basics of tactics, but it has been necessary to experience them at first hand in a real combat situation.

[Borovkov] What is your assessment of the prospects for the peace talks with the gunmen?

[Shamanov] First of all fundamental political decisions must be made. I do not want to say that none have been made. But politicians' existing steps in this regard are maybe more dilettantish than long-term. It seems to me that it is necessary to make tasks specific, set a deadline for achieving them, and hold the responsible officials strictly accountable for this. We are Russia, a great country. We have had enough of looking over our shoulder first one way then the other. We have our heritage, our history. We must look at ourselves. And act accordingly. [Shamanov ends]

...And a few minutes later Maj. Gen. Shamanov was already heading for the helicopter. Pressing business awaited him, but he is used to solving problems right on the spot.

Russia: Yeltsin Chechnya Peace Plan Said Mostly 'Implemented'

LD1907082496 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0742 GMT 19 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, July 19 (Interfax) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin's peace plan for Chechnya has largely been implemented, Nationalities

Minister Vyacheslav Mikhaylov said at a news conference in Moscow Friday.

Mikhaylov dismissed allegations that Yeltsin's peace initiatives had failed.

The largest successes have been scored in legal issues. The State Duma is debating a federal bill on Chechnya's special status, a power-sharing treaty between Chechnya and the federal center has been drafted and a new Chechen Constitution is being formulated, he said.

Despite a lack of finances, the economic issues are also being tackled, both industry and the agricultural sector are being rebuilt, Mikhaylov said. Most illegal militias in Chechnya have been destroyed, he said.

On the other hand, the cease-fire agreements signed in Moscow on May 27 and in Nazran on June 10 are not being observed, Mikhaylov complained. One of the reasons for this is the lack of progress in defining zones of cooperation in Chechnya, without which the republic cannot be demilitarized or troops withdrawn, he said.

"This is why all the federal check points could not be withdrawn before July 7," Mikhaylov said.

The Nazran protocol on the exchange of prisoners is being translated into action, he said. The working group on exchange will meet in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's mission headquarters in the Chechen capital of Groznyy on Friday, Mikhaylov said.

The State Commission for Chechen Settlement wants the talks with Chechen separatist leaders to continue, he said. Mikhaylov believes that the Moscow-backed Chechen leaders should take an active part in the talks.

Russia: New 'Neutral' Interior Minister Takes Over in Chechnya

LD1907095796 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0943 GMT 19 Jul 96

[By Nikolay Zagnoiko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Groznyy July 19 (Itar-Tass) — Anatoliy Taranov, the new interior minister of Chechnya, officially took office on Friday. Colonel Taranov, 48, was previously deputy commander of the 80th division of the Interior Ministry troops.

He was introduced to his subordinates today and the ceremony was attended by Russia's First Deputy Interior Minister Pavel Golubets and Colonel General Anatoliy Kvashnin, commander of the North Caucasian Military District. They stressed in their reports that Taranov's appointment had been coordinated with the leadership of the republic and the Russian Interior Ministry.

The Chechen government believes that the Interior Ministry should be headed by a "neutral person." It was stressed at the meeting of the ministry's leadership that Chechen police had important tasks to fulfill: it is necessary to complete its restructuring, to step up investigating work and to further develop the prevention of criminal offences.

Khamid Inalov, previous interior minister, was appointed to the post of adviser on law enforcement agencies, subordinated to the head of the Chechen Republic.

Russia: Top Russian Commander Agrees To Meet Chechnya's Maskhadov

LD1907141796 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1400 GMT 19 Jul 96

[By Nikolay Zagnoiko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Groznyy, July 19 (Itar-Tass) — Colonel General Anatoliy Kvashnin, commander of the North Caucasus military district, on Friday agreed in principle to meet Chechen separatist chief of staff Aslan Maskhadov.

Kvashnin told Itar-Tass he was ready to meet Maskhadov "at any moment." However, the venue and timing of a meeting are still to be arranged.

The general told Itar-Tass that they might discuss the situation in Chechnya, "including the future of Aslan Maskhadov himself," who has still time to "come to his senses," Kvashnin said.

"It's up to him to think about his fate. I will not run after him throughout Chechnya," he said.

Earlier in the day, secretary of the state commission for the settlement of the Chechen crisis Sergey Stepashin told a news conference in Moscow that agreement about a meeting had been reached with the mediation of Tim Guldimann, head of the OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe] mission in Chechnya. "A positive response came in," Stepashin said.

It is time to understand that the war in Chechnya is over," Kvashnin said. "The troops have carried out their mission, and units of the Chechen interior ministry will take their place. It is them who will have to neutralise separate paramilitary groups," he said.

The sudden "resurrection" of field commander Salman Raduyev, who has been believed to be dead and who made an unexpected appearance on Groznyy television on Thursday evening, is another confirmation of the gravity of the situation in which rebels got bogged down.

Raduyev's appearance on TV screens is but a propaganda trick (performed) by the forces which are interested in destabilising the situation in Chechnya and in breaking down peace talks, he stressed.

The appearance in the foreground of such personalities as Raduyev means that the rebels are really desperate, he said adding that in recent fighting, rebel groups had suffered considerable losses.

Since June 9, about 300 rebels have been killed and 30 taken prisoner, Stepashin said.

In January, Raduyev planned and carried out, with a group of rebels, a bloody raid on a hospital in the town of Kizlyar in neighbouring Daghestan where he took many patients hostage.

Later, he was believed to have been mortally wounded in a quarrel with another field commander, according to media reports.

Russia: Bomb Found at Voronezh Railway Station Fails To Explode

LD1907091496 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0907 GMT 19 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] VORONEZH, July 19 (Interfax) — A powerful bomb was found in the building of a railway station in Voronezh by police on Friday morning.

The local civil defense and emergency situations office said that a fuse detonated inside a bag containing about 1.5 kilograms of TNT at about 6:15 a.m. Fortunately, no blast ensued. The explosive was merely scattered around. Next to the first bag police found another one containing 1.5 kilograms of TNT.

The incident occurred at the Voronezh-1 railway station. Police are making checks at all other railway stations in the city and at the local airport.

The civil defense and emergency situations office said there was no disruption in railway traffic. The airport is operating normally. Nobody was hurt in the incident.

Police officials have been unable to name the likely organizers of the attack yet and they are not linking it to any political or criminal motives. An investigation is in progress.

Russia: Voronezh Terrorists Presumably From Caucasus

LD1907100096 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0938 GMT 19 Jul 96

[By Anatoliy Starukhin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] VORONEZH, July 19 (Itar-Tass) — The three terrorists who planted a powerful bomb at the main railway station in Voronezh on Friday [19 July] originate from the Caucasus, according to their identikits, and police are frantically searching for them in the central Russian city.

A spokesman of Voronozh police told TASS that the identikits had been compiled by eye witnesses who saw the three people leaving two bags in the hall of the railway station in which the powerful explosive was hidden.

The bomb, which consisted of two parts and was equivalent to 3 kilograms of TNT, did not go off by mere chance, although its detonator was activated.

"The criminals acted impudently hoping that the explosion will bury all the witnesses", local transport prosecutor Yuriy Gorshenev told TASS. However, the identikits "will ease the search for them", he added.

Police have sealed off all railway stations, the airport and the bus terminal of Voronezh and passports are being checked.

Experts cannot yet explain why the bomb failed to go off, but if it had it would have destroyed the whole building and bury all the passengers under the debris.

The detonator went off at 06:10 hours local time. The bomb itself consisted of 1.5 kilogrammes hidden in a bag and another 1.5 kilogrammes in a plastic bag nearby.

The terrorists fled in a car, but eye witnesses remembered a tall man and two women who left the bags in the railway station and hastily retreated.

Economic Issues

Russia: Government Urged To Hasten Work on Economic Security System

LD1807195896 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1750 GMT 18 Jul 96

[By Lyudmila Yermakova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, July 18 (Itar-Tass) — Participants in parliamentary hearings on economic security of Russia recommended the government to speed up the elaboration of a "system of criteria and parameters characterising the national interests and meeting the requirements of economic security."

The hearings were held today in the Federation Council with the participation of a wide range of experts from different departments.

Drawing attention to the need to be guided by the State strategy of economic security, approved by the Russian President's decree of April 29, 1996, parliamentarians stressed that security should be regarded as "a stable state of national economy when it is capable of ensuring the economic interests of Russia on the domestic and foreign markets, and the satisfaction of public needs in the conditions of social stability."

Parliamentarians believe that when forming a law on the federal budget for the next year, it is necessary to take into account indices-indicators of economic security.

The participants in the hearings also set the parliament the tasks to ensure security. In particular, the Committee of the Federation Council for Economic policy must work out and submit for the consideration by the chamber a plan for the lawmaking activities on the implementation of the state strategy in the last quarter of this year.

Russia: Privatization To Continue on Case-by-Case Basis

LD1807200196 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1915 GMT 18 Jul 96

[By Nadezhda Anisimova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, July 18 (Itar-Tass) — Russia will continue its big sell-off but there will be no mandatory privatisation. Decisions will be made on a case-to-case basis and with more thinking-through, according to Alfred Kokh, first deputy chairman of the State Property Managing Committee (GKI).

According to Kokh, the new approach will help raise the effectiveness of the Russian national economy. He was discussing a new state privatisation programme which was approved by the government as a whole at its meeting today, but asked the drafters to brush up details as recommended by a number of ministries and government departments.

Kokh also said the work collectives will no longer be offered benefits promoting privatisation. Under the new programme of privatisation, the component parts of the federation and local governments will be given more rights in carrying out privatisation on their territory, and land will be sold off together with the installations on it.

The programme forbids the sell-off of subsoil, forests, water resources and the resources on the continental shelf, as well as objects of the country's cultural and historical legacy.

Privatisation of major enterprises with the balance value of basic assets in excess of 10 million minimal wages, and of enterprises of the fuel-and-energy sector will be carried out only by decision of the Government of the Russian Federation, Kokh told a press conference after the Cabinet meeting on Thursday.

Russia: Gazprom's Political Role Discussed

964E1824A Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Jul 96 p 4

[Article by Tatyana Koshkareva: "The 'Gazprom Factor'; the Largest Russian Company as an Object of Permanent Political Criticism"]

[FBIS Translated Text]

The Monopoly

Practically not one of the influential politicians of Russia fails to mention Gazprom [Gas Industry Trust], the country's biggest industrial company, in his public statements. The 'Gazprom factor' in the public life of the country is determined by the fact that consciously or unconsciously politicians, whether democrat or communist, perceive this company as a symbol of economic power. But after all, criticism of an active power is a main occupation of an individual politician, or of a party. Apparently Gazprom is doomed to the public attention of all potential aspirants to a seat in the Kremlin, the White house, or Okhotnyy Ryad, be they democrats or communists, and it will always be an object of political dissection. In order to disappear from the political horizon it is necessary for Gazprom to shrink in a literal sense, which, however, is then fraught with economic losses.

Over the course of the last four years the Russian joint-stock company Gazprom was repeatedly subjected to the criticism of those members of the government who associated themselves with the reform wing. The essence of their proposals boil down to the fact that it is impossible to continue the immunity of the gas monopoly, inasmuch as it contradicts the principles of a liberal market economy.

Apparently, the main reason for the irritation of Anatoliy Chubays and Petr Mostovoy, his deputy at that time, was the realization in the years 1991-1992 that Gazprom had become already a factor in the political life of Russia. After all, specialists in privatization work could not help but know that monopolization is a distinguishing feature of the gas industries of all of the countries of Europe (except for Great Britain). But the weakness of the economic arguments in favor of wrecking one of the few stably working companies was more than obvious.

Moreover, the influence of Gazprom on the political life of the country follows directly from its importance to the economy of Russia. First, the company provides highly paid employment, by Russian measures, to 300,000 workers, and, second, which is more important, it actually subsidizes the population of the country—everyday consumers receive gas and, apparently, they will receive gas at symbolic prices for many more years. Moreover, Gazprom produces about 7-8 percent of the gross domestic product (this is considerable, considering that several tens of thousands of enterprises and companies work in Russia) and approximately 8 percent of the exports to the far abroad falls to its share.

Russian liberals have repeatedly proposed to break up Gazprom into several companies, claiming that demonopolization will only favor the industry. Considering the exceptionally big role of ideological cliches in economic policy in 1991-1992, the probability of a liberal-market subdivision of the company then was very high.

The managers of Gazprom could then hardly count on common sense (the breakup of a monopoly "with one pipe" that stretches 5,000 kilometers from East to West does not destroy this monopoly). The company was saved most of all by the catastrophic slump in industry. Not one president would take the responsibility under these conditions for a reorganization of the only stably working industrial firm.

The concept of breaking up the gas monopoly was frankly pro-Western. Malicious tongues claimed at that time that antimonopoly initiatives in Russia were initiated by the big international oil and gas corporations that did not want to reconcile themselves to Gazprom's expansion in Europe. This thesis cannot be proved, however, even if the authors of the idea of breaking up Gazprom into smaller units proceeded from theoretical premises, and these premises came from abroad.

The new wave in the political fight against Gazprom was also initiated by the West which, however, did not conceal this. In August of last year a barrage of accusations was leveled against the company which essence was that the company was "excessively rich" and was paying unusually low taxes. The theoretical basis for the new wave of criticism of the company was developed by U.S. consultants in the fight against monopolies who found shelter for themselves in the Ministry of Economics of the Russian Federation.

It is obvious that Yevgeniy Yasin, the minister of economics, would hardly venture periodic leaks of information to one of the Russian newspapers, if he did not have the support of influential people from the president's administration. The fiscal campaign against Gazprom, according to some calculations, cost the monopoly $300 million in additional tax allocations.

Gazprom's role in the political life of the country was once again demonstrated in the summer and spring of this year. Payments to Gazprom were actually stopped inside the country. The debts of industrial consumers (from the near abroad and Russia) reached $11 billion, which is fraught with the loss of financial stability even for a very big firm. Enterprises and thermal electric power stations stopped paying because they were given an unwritten preelection indulgence for nonpayments. Gazprom once again involuntarily ended up in the role of a political treasurer who paid for the preelection campaign of the president with coerced commodity credit.

The opposition was categorically displeased with the presence of a big latent source of subsidizing the president, and it once again came down on Gazprom with the voice of its most educated economist, Sergey Glazyev. It is interesting that, speaking from left-wing positions, Glazyev accurately reproduced the thesis of U.S. liberals of the need to intensify fiscal pressure on the gas monopoly.

Glazyev, in particular, declared: "Inasmuch as natural rent (Gazprom—T.K.) belongs to the entire society," it is necessary to undertake "measures for collecting it for the budget. This is necessary for the conduct of tax reform, the stimulation of scientific-technical progress, and the provision of social expenditures."

By the will of fate the ex-deputy once again found himself in favor—judging by the text of Aleksandr Lebed's concept of national security, Glazyev is already working as an economic consultant for the secretary of the Security Council who is quickly collecting political points. And this means that the direction of the cycle of political criticism aimed at Gazprom depends on Aleksandr Lebed's economic choice.

International Affairs

Ukraine: Talbott Supports Ukraine's Involvement in European Security

LD1807181296 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1623 GMT 18 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, July 18 (Interfax - Ukraine) — Assistant U.S. secretary of State Strobe Talbott believes that Ukraine must be actively involved in designing a model for common European security.

European security will be based, in particular, on NATO enlargement, Talbott, who is on a brief visit to Ukraine, told a news conference in Kiev Wednesday.

All NATO countries agree that not only the new members of the alliance but all European countries, including Ukraine, should benefit from the enlargement, said Talbott. One Cold War and "iron curtain" is enough, he said.

Speaking about Ukraine's initiative to create a nuclear-free zone in Central and Eastern Europe, Talbott said the NATO leadership had already stated that it sees no need to deploy additional nuclear weapons in Europe.

The United States is considering very seriously the creation of a bilateral commission to be headed by Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma and U.S. Vice President Al Gore, and the terms of the commission's work will be set in the near future, he said.

Talbott described the adoption of a new Ukrainian Constitution as a very positive event in Ukraine's evolution as a sovereign state.

During the talks in Kiev, the sides paid much attention to Ukraine's integration in European, regional and international institutions. In addition, issues relating to Ukrainian economic reforms were also tackled as priorities, said Talbott.

He described the Tuesday attempt on the life of Ukrainian Prime Minister Pavel Lazarenko as a very serious incident. Gore asked to convey his concern over the bombing and his satisfaction over the absence of serious consequences to Lazarenko, Talbott said.

During his meeting with Talbott in Kiev on Wednesday, Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma voiced the hope that Ukraine would find an appropriate scope of relations with NATO, a spokesman for the Ukrainian president, Andrey Chirva, told Interfax - Ukraine.

Ukraine would like to develop not only military but also political and information links with NATO, the Ukrainian president said.

Kuchma and Talbott also discussed Ukrainian-Russian relations, the Ukrainian president's spokesman said.

The United States would not like to create problems regarding Ukrainian-Russian relations, Talbott said.

Kuchma emphasized the need to conclude a large-scale treaty on cooperation between Ukraine and Russia as soon as possible, the spokesman said.

Ukraine: Prime Minister To Visit United States 25-26 Jul

LD1907100896 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0930 GMT 19 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, July 19 (Interfax-Ukraine) — Ukrainian Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko intends to visit the United States on July 25 and 26, Mikhail Golyshev, head of the government press service, told Interfax-Ukraine.

During his trip, Lazarenko may meet with U.S. Vice President Albert Gore, Golyshev said.

Lazarenko will also attend a meeting of the International Monetary Fund's board which will discuss the issue of making the next tranche of a stand-by credit available to Ukraine. He intends to meet with officials of large U.S. companies and banks.

Golyshev said it was possible that Lazarenko would go to the United States from Bulgaria, which he will be visiting on July 23 and 24.

Ukraine: Upcoming Talks Discussed With Belarusian Delegation

WS1907084596 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0107 GMT 19 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kyiv, July 18. A Belarusian Foreign Affairs Ministry delegation is visiting Ukraine in advance of the meeting of foreign ministers of Belarus, Poland and Ukraine in Belarus' Brest scheduled for July 20-21. The delegation is preparing for talks this weekend covering Ukrainian-Belarusian relations, including Chernobyl, Belarus Embassy political adviser Volodymyr Bokach said Thursday. Bilateral trade was more than $1 billion in 1995 and, according to Bokach, it is expected to increase in 1996.

Bokach also denied Ukrainian media reports on possible impeachment proceding against Belarus President Alyaksandr Lukashenka: "Our Parliament is on vacation, and when deputies will be back to the session in two months, it will be impossible to put this issue on the session adgenda because just 1 or 2 people would like to vote for it."

Ukraine: Kiev To Swap Agricultural Products for Iranian Oil

LD1807175996 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1731 18 Jul 96

[By Galina Nekrasova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] LVOV, July 18 (Itar-Tass) — Ukraine intends to purchase two million tonnes of oil from Iran before the end of 1996. Kiev will pay back with agricultural products, sources in the Ukrainian Oil and Gas Ministry told Tass on Thursday.

Ukraine has been holding talks with Iran since the very first day of independence, in an attempt to find an energy supplier other than Russia, the source said.

The payment issue has been a stumbling block to the talks. However, after long consultations the two sides agreed on agricultural products, it said.

The oil will be transferred into the Ukrainian port of Odessa from oil storage tanks in Iskenderun, according to it.

National Affairs

Ukraine: Officials Explain Measures To Avoid Losing 'Sovereignty'

LD1707173296 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1714 GMT 17 Jul 96

[By Mikhail Melnik]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, July 17 (Itar-Tass) — Ukraine, swayed by economic, social and political trouble, is pondering emergency measures to avoid "losing its sovereignty this autumn," the republic's National Security Council Secretary Aleksandr [name as received] Horbulin announced today.

Stressing that radical measures must be taken without delay to avoid the loss of sovereignty, Horbulin told reporters after the Council meeting today that Ukraine "will introduce elements of the state of emergency" soon.

He did not specify what measures he had in mind, but explained that "the President and the Government of Ukraine are worried by the fact that, following the adoption of the republic's new constitution, the radical left- and right-wing forces stepped up activity in opposition to the course pursued by the head of state."

"The leaders of the communists and socialists openly allege that Leonid Kuchma's policy is un-Ukrainian and call for toppling him and changing the country's system," he said.

"The ultra-nationalists, including the UNA-UNSO organisation, are acting at one with the leftists. All this poses a threat to Ukraine's national security," Horbulin said.

Earlier today, chairman of the Ukrainian parliament's standing committee on combating corruption and organized crime Grigoriy Omelchenko told Itar-Tass that the mounting political, social and economic tension could unleash a wave of terror in Ukraine if some groupings opted for terrorism instead of legal means in the drive to achieve their own political ends.

Omelchenko said the number of acts of terror in Ukraine had been steadily growing from year to year - there were up to 150 such acts in 1992, 180 in 1993, and over 250 in 1994. In the first three months of 1996, more than 30 acts of terrorism were reported, he stressed.

According to deputy chairman of the Security Service of Ukraine Aleksandr Skibnitskiy, acts of terror are increasingly often directed against statesmen, parliamentarians and judges.

Skibnitskiy said 67 terrorist acts were committed against Ukrainian statesmen, parliamentarians and judges this year alone, adding that 90 people died in 300 such acts of terror over the past two years.

Skibnitskiy said anonymous threats have repeatedly been addressed to President of Ukraine Leonid Kuchma but rejected rumours that there had been several attempts on the life of the Prime Minister, Pavel Lazarenko.

He said that, according to the Security Service, the bomb blast that damaged the Prime Minister's car but did not hurt the man on Tuesday was the first attempt on Lazarenko's life.

He added further that the criminal attempt was "undertaken by professionals" intending, most probably, to intimidate the Premier who has begun very decisively to restore law and order in the Ukrainian coal industry and the country as a whole.

Interior minister Yuriy Kravchenko said around 3,000 police forces are involved in the investigation of the attempt and that an anti-terrorist centre will soon open in the country to handle such cases.

Meanwhile, measures have been taken to reinforce protection of the country's top officials and 500 commandos have arrived in Kiev from other regions for the purpose.

Ukraine: Kiev Uses Assassination Attempt To Fire Donetsk Governor

MK1907112496 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 19 Jul 96 p 8

[Report from Kiev by Vladimir Skachko: "The Special Services Contemplate Sanctions Against the President's Opponents. Politicians Are Still Keeping Silent and Wait for the Results of the Investigation Into the Attempt on the Prime Minister's Life"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted]

According to a universally held view, it is not by chance that the Kiev authorities are fearful of opponents from the Donbass area, because everyone still remembers the goings-on of 1993-1994, when a tide of coal miners' strikes, backed by mine directors and the oblast authorities, not only catapulted Donetsk Mayor Yefim Zvyagilskiy into the prime minister's office, but also brought forward early parliamentary and presidential elections. Against the backdrop of the worsening economic situation that is forecast for autumn, the developments might well recur. All the more so because Donetsk politicians make no bones about the fact that [chief of the Donetsk Oblast Administration] Volodymyr Shcherban is ready to contest the next presidential election with his own team. [National Security Council Chairman] Volodymyr Horbulin told your SEGODNYA correspondent at a 17 July briefing: "We shall see how promising a politician Volodymyr Shcherban is." For this reason many people in Kiev do not rule out the possibility that the attempt on the prime minister's life was organized precisely in order to discredit the Donetsk governor so as to remove him from the political scene. The authorities are simply trying to cover themselves.

At the same time, Ukrainian politicians are avoiding comment on the assassination attempt. Only Parliamentary Speaker Oleksandr Moroz unequivocally denounced "any manifestations of terrorism that must be nipped in the bud" and called for a constitutional way of resolving the problem. In his words, the new Ukrainian Constitution envisions all the requisite measures. It is quite possible that Mr. Moroz, who heads the Socialist Party, does not want unlawful sanctions to be applied against his party colleagues.

The UNA-UNSO nationalist organization, which is due to hold its congress on 20 July and is planning to apply for reregistration as a legal political party, has openly stated that the attempt on the prime minister's life was "organized by the weapons mafia," and called on all Ukrainian servicemen to refrain from any actions to protest their woeful material plight "without consulting the UNA-UNSO."

Addressing the morning meeting of the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers on 18 July, which considered the situation in Donbass, Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko read out a draft government decree requesting that the president dismiss from office Volodymyr Shcherban, chief of the Donetsk Oblast Administration. Government members backed their leader, unanimously accusing the Donetsk governor of disorganizing the administration's work and letting go of the levers of government. Volodymyr Shcherban's attempts to justify his actions failed to impress the ministers, and to all appearances the president will satisfy the government request. After the governor, the Cabinet of Ministers moved to fire the entire leadership of the Donetsk police and directors of virtually all mines and mine associations whose workers took part in the strikes. As a result, Donetsk Oblast has found itself effectively left without the chiefs of the power and law-enforcement agencies. On the same day, the press service of the Ukrainian president disseminated his statement saying that the president is ready to give an adequate response, provided for in the Constitution, to all threats "to national security jeopardizing its existence as a national state."

Volodymyr Chernyak, deputy chairman of the Ukrainian National Rukh, commented on the situation as follows: "Currently the fate of Ukraine is decided by a struggle between clans, which, unlike the struggle between political parties, proceeds covertly, 'under the blanket.' The Dnepropetrovsk clan is gaining the upper hand over the Donetsk clan." Oleg Soskin, leader of the Ukrainian National Conservative Party, added that "there was no attempt on the prime minister's life, but there was a pretext for establishing a fascist dictatorship of Bolshevik or criminal hues."

Ukraine: Kuchma Dismisses Governor of Donetsk Region

LD1807164696 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1630 GMT 18 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev, 18 Jul — Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma has issued an edict dismissing Volodymyr Shcherban from the post of Donetsk region state administration chairman, citing serious failures in the management of the region's socioeconomic development.

Shcherban's performance came under severe criticism at today's cabinet meeting, after which the government formally requested his dismissal.

In another edict, President Kuchma appointed Serhiy Polyakov as chairman of the Donetsk region state administration, the presidential administration reported.

Ukraine: Proceedings Instituted Against Head of Strike Committee

LD1807120896 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian
1100 GMT 18 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — Criminal proceedings have been instituted against Mykhaylo Krylov, head of the Donetsk strike committee of miners, for organizing a strike movement. A UNIAN correspondent learned this from Serhiy Raspopov, a member of the strike committee. Raspopov said that representatives of the Donetsk Region prosecutor's office informed Krylov they had begun investigating his case. Raspopov believes Krylov cannot be considered as an organizer of a mass strike "because miners had obligated him to carry out the functions of a leader and make sure there would be no excesses on the part of strikers." "If the criminal case against the leader of the strike movement is not closed, employees of all the mines of the Donetsk coal region will rise to his defense," he said.

Raspopov said that, on 18 July, miners returned to work almost at all the mines of Donetsk and stopped the blockade of the railways.

Ukraine: Kuchma Names Coal Industry Minister as Donetsk Chairman

LD1807170296 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian
1630 GMT 18 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma issued a decree today appointing Serhiy Polyakov as chairman of the Donetsk Region State Administration, the presidential administration told UNIAN. In another decree, the president released Polyakov from the post of coal industry minister in connection with the transfer.

Ukraine: Miners' Union Leader Proposes End to Strike

LD1807172396 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian
1630 GMT 18 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev, 18 Jul — Mykhaylo Volynets, the Independent Union of Miners of Ukraine [IUMU] chairman, has called on miners and union members to end the strike and return to work on 19 July, but at the same time stay ready to resume the action.

In a statement today, Volynets said the strike, joined by up to 90 coal mining enterprises, "demonstrated the strength of the workers' and union movements and forced the government to take certain measures," which by 18 July reduced wage and welfare arrears to 98 trillion karbovantsi.

At the same time, Volynets said, the government and the industry management refused to negotiate with the IUMU and strike committee representatives. The agreement, signed between the government and leaders of the Union of Coal Industry Employees and the Independent Union of Miners of Donbass "does not provide a complete answer to miners' legitimate demands, and the fact that 20 mines have remained on strike proves it," the union leader said.

Ukraine: Tension Subsides in Donetsk Coal Region

LD1807165196 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian
1230 GMT 18 Jul 96

[FBIS Summary] UNIAN reports that all the miners of the Donetskvuhillya production association returned to work today. Viktor Turmanov, deputy head of the trade union of coal miners, believes that the tension in connection with the strikes in Donetsk coal region is subsiding.

The situation remains difficult in the Ordzhonikidzevuhillya production association, the town of Yenakiev, where coal pits have become unworkable because of the long closure of mines. There, three out of 10 mines are still idle. At the Chervonoarmiyskvuhillya production association in the town of Dymytrov, four mines are not working.

Ukraine: Criminal Proceedings Launched Against Rail Picketers

LD1807210696 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1719 GMT 18 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Donetsk, July 18 (Interfax - Ukraine) — The Transport Public Prosecutor's Office of the Donetsk Railway has launched criminal proceedings in the case of blocking regional railways by striking miners.

As Interfax - Ukraine was told in interview by Leonid Chernikov, Deputy Transport Public Prosecutor of the Donetsk Railway, criminal proceedings have been opened in keeping with article 217, part 3 of Ukraine's Criminal Code, providing for a term of from five to fifteen years in prison for premeditated blockade of transport communications through picketing.

Criminal proceedings on a similar case have been also opened by the investigatory administration of the Donetsk city department of the interior.

According to L. Chernikov, "it is quite possible that the leaders of the Donetsk strike committee will also be involved in the criminal proceedings". At the same time, he noted that "the investigation will clear-up the situation".

Apart from this, the Deputy Prosecutor said, the Donetsk Regional Transport Administration of the Interior has instituted criminal proceedings on a the case of blocking railway at "Horlivka" station.

Having noted that the 217-th article, part 3 of the Criminal Code provides for responsibility for causing serious damage, L. Chernikov said that the losses from the railway traffic blockade had totalled 617 billion karbovanets. In the course of the strikes, over 100 passenger and over 200 freight trains have been blocked.

Commenting in Interfax - Ukraine interview on possible aftermaths of bringing to justice the organizers of miners' strikes, Chairman of the Independent Miners' Union of Ukraine Mykhailo Volynets said that, against the background of unresolved issues involved in the wage backlog, the outcome of "repressions against miners will be equal to that of an explosion, and only aggravate socio-political tensions in the coal regions".

Ukraine: Rukh Official: Attempt on Premier Result of Clan War

LD1807215896 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian
1430 GMT 18 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — The attempt to assassinate Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko was organized by those pushing the president toward dictatorship, Volodymyr Chernyak, deputy leader of the People's Movement of Ukraine [Rukh].

Ukraine's fate is being decided in a "struggle between the Donetsk and the Dnepropetrovsk Mafia clans" to divide and monopolize profits from the oil, gas, and metallurgy industries, Chernyak said. The explosion on Rybalskyy peninsula, in his view, undermined the Donetsk clan's position, adding strength to the Dnepropetrovsk clan.

The present economic situation provokes strikes, and the Mafia is using miners to destabilize the political situation in Ukraine, the deputy Rukh leader said. "Being unable to solve economic and political problems in a civilized way, President Leonid Kuchma is clutching at a state of emergency and emergency powers," he added.

Ukraine: 'Local Mafia' Possible Suspects for Assassination Attempt

LD1807174996 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1715 GMT 18 Jul 96

[By Mikhail Melnik and Raisa Stetsyura]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, July 18 (Itar-Tass) — The Ukrainian capital today looked calmer than at any other time since last Tuesday's attempt on the life of Ukrainian Prime Minister Pavel Lazarenko. People in the streets looked calm and unexcited and there were fewer heated group debates about the attempt on the life of the head of government, while law enforcement officials and investigators were busy looking into versions and sniffing for traces.

The attempt on the life of Prime Minister Lazarenko was motivated by economic rather than political considerations and must have come from the local mafia, high ranking officials of the country's law enforcement agencies said.

According to one version, the attempt was engineered by some "clans" interested in removing Lazarenko from the office of the head of government. National Security Council Secretary Aleksandr Gorbulin said he did not rule out that Lazarenko might have stepped on the toes of "the coal generals" involved in large-scale financial machinations with his efforts to restore law and order in Ukraine's coal-mining industry. Criminal proceedings have already been instituted in 45 cases and the investigators are now looking into numerous "affairs" in the economic and foreign trade fields.

Chief of the Main Intelligence Directorate Oleksandr Skipalskyy said "influential structures running the shadow businesses in Ukraine are already trying to direct politicians and intervene in the government activity." He said the criminalisation of the country has reached a level which everybody discusses but no one fights.

Deputy chairman of the Security Service of Ukraine Oleksandr Skibnitskyy also believes that the attempt on the life of the Prime Minister, whose car was shattered by a bomb blast on Tuesday en route to the airport, was economically motivated. He has no doubt that the operation had been pre-planned by professionals. The powerful explosive, an equivalent of three kilograms of TNT, was detonated with the help of a remote radio control device. The sleuths have already pinpointed the place from which the radio-signal came and found "some traces" which they would not discuss at this point "in the interests of the investigation," Skibnitskyy said.

As concerns the "elements of the state of emergency" announced by the National Security Council Secretary on Wednesday, they have been put in place in Kiev where reinforced patrolling of the streets is already underway, the top officials are more thoroughly guarded and a large-scale operation has been launched to trace the terrorists who tried to blow up the Prime Minister's limousine.

No apparent change was traceable in the behaviour and looks of the inhabitants and visitors of Kiev as they hurried to work or went shopping, took rides on the public transport or drove their cars.

Ukraine: Impact of Emergency Measures Expected To Be 'Deplorable'

MK1907111696 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 19 Jul 96 p 4

[Article by Viktor Zamyatin: "Kiev Decides To Declare Emergency Situation"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the wake of the failed attempt on the life of Premier Pavlo Lazarenko, the Ukrainian authorities have once again raised the subject, discussed for the first time in 1994, of introducing in the republic an emergency situation regime, primarily in the economy. National Security Council Secretary Volodymir Horbulin has announced that "some elements of an emergency situation" will be introduced in accordance with the Council's decision. They have not been named, but it is not hard to guess what some of them are.

It is no doubt simpler to list the factors that pose no threat to the fledgling Ukrainian state than to cite all those that spell its death. When Volodymir Horbulin says that unless tough measures are taken, this state may be no more as early as the [coming] fall, this rings true. Rather real, at least, is the threat to the current authorities from radical political forces, the parliamentary majority, regional leaders, and army commanders.

More than 18 months after the election of Leonid Kuchma as president, a constitution was finally passed, but it was not the constitution the president would like to have had and it was not passed the way he would have liked. There are still no tangible improvements in the economic and sociopolitical situation. This creates an extremely favorable situation for a growth in popularity of communists, socialists, and the UNA-UNSO [Ukrainian National Army-Ukrainian National Defense Union]. It must be for this reason that the decision was made to fight, in a rather tough form, the effect rather than the cause. The Communists may be in for a review of the decision on registration of the party in the same way it was done in the case of the UNA-UNSO. The same may happen with the Moscow-oriented Civilian Congress of Ukraine, which is especially active in the Donbass. The UNA-UNSO does not have to fear anything — it is outlawed. Now it will apparently go underground. In the meantime, history shows that leftists grow stronger underground.

The closest attention will be paid to the Donbass where, as the latest developments showed, Kiev barely controls the situation. The first step has already been taken: Yesterday, the government approached Kuchma with a request to remove from office the head of the Donetsk Oblast administration Volodymir Shcherban "for serious shortcomings in ensuring a stable socioeconomic situation in the oblast." Once the vacation season ends, tough measures will surely be put in place in Crimea. Horbulin spoke about this almost openly. Crimea may face the suspension of the constitutions (the new Ukrainian and the Crimean constitutions) that guarantee the peninsula's autonomy. True, this is the most pessimistic scenario. One can expect that some Crimean deputies suspected of connections with the criminal world will lose their seats. Horbulin is hardly right in arguing that the assassination attempt on Lazarenko has no connection with the personnel purge in Donetsk Oblast.

The authorities will surely move to make a whole number of resounding disclosures in order to prove that they are not asleep. There can be no doubt that former acting Premier Yefim Zvyagelskiy will not be back in Ukraine for a long time yet and that the whole truth about the ASKO [Black Sea Shipping Line] case will not come to light. Instead, a number of new cases will be investigated and brought to court. An antiterrorist center will be created; the old idea will perhaps be revived to create a National Investigative Bureau; and a number of members in the lower reaches of the criminal world may be eliminated.

But the consequences of "some elements" of emergency rule will hit most average Ukrainians, who may for security purposes face restrictions on traveling abroad, including to CIS countries, and will generally make their life very difficult. Incidentally, no one in Ukraine has even suggested to date to abolish the propiska [residency registration].

The result will certainly be deplorable. Indeed, at the end of almost two years of Kuchma's rule, there has not been developed even a rough model for economic development and ending a most severe crisis. Prime Minister Kuchma had emergency powers earlier, but he proved unable to use them in a competent way. As president, he will hardly be able to do much better.

Ukraine: Justice Minister on Importance of Adopting Power Laws

LD1807205396 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1840 GMT 18 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, July 18 (Interfax - Ukraine) — Addressing a briefing at the Justice Ministry today, Minister Serhiy Holovatyy has described as a "top priority" for the successful start of implementation of the new Constitution the adoption by Verkhovna Rada of a package of executive power laws.

According to him, the package should include the laws of the Cabinet of Ministers determining its composition, the procedure for the formation and questions within the competence of the Government. The package is also supposed to include the Ministry's law, determining among other things the status of the Ministry. Among the laws to be adopted will be also the State Committee's Law, as well as that of the local executive authorities and the local administration system.

The lack of executive power laws leaves unsettled 90 percent of relations in that field, even after the adoption of the Constitution, the Minister underscored. "It would be a very good achievement if these laws are adopted before the new year", the Minister said.

S. Holovatyy believes that the Verkhovna Rada Law is no worse for some corrections. Yet, according to him, this is going to be a simpler question, since there is its statute, as the foundation for the parliamentary activities.

At the same time, as he put it, it is necessary to draw up new judicial system laws. The drafting of the complex of such laws may be completed not earlier than by the beginning of 1998, he believes.

The Justice Minister commented on the appeal to him by the Chairman of the Radyansky district court of law in the Kiev saying that in face of the problems with the delay in the payment of salaries to court members, he did not exclude the possibility of a strike. "One cannot help asking whether that person can be entitled to the office of a judge", the Minister said.

Ukraine: Ministry Begins Campaign To Publicize New Constitution

*LD1807205596 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1719 GMT 18 Jul 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, July 18 (Interfax - Ukraine) — Ukraine's Justice Minister embarks upon a vigorous effort to propagate among the population the text and provisions of the new Constitution of Ukraine, a briefing in Kiev today was told by Justice Minister Serhiy Holovatyy.

According to him, the mock-up of the official publication of the text of the Constitution was sent to print yesterday July 17, and may get off print already in two weeks from now.

The publication is to be made as a souvenir book in a small number of copies. At the same time, it is planned to put out a mass edition in a large print.

According to S. Holovatyy, the Justice Ministry intends to devote special attention to popularizing the Constitution at educational establishments, "We will do our best that every pupil of at least 11-th grade could get as a gift from the state the text of the new Constitution by September 1", he noted.

A total of nearly 2 mn USD are necessary for launching a campaign of propaganda of the Constitution in schools and educational establishments, including the publication of the text of the Constitution, methodology papers and special training for the teachers. S.Holovaty underscored that he would not like to turn to the Government for this money. "In this situation, it will be no harm to turn to the Governments of foreign states and funds so that they made such gifts to the citizens of Ukraine by the fifth anniversary of her independence", he feels.

According to the Minister, partial agreement on funding the program has already been reached with the Governments of the USA, Canada, the Netherlands and the "Eurasia" Fund.

S. Holovatyy said that work is to be completed within the next two days to officialize the text of the Constitution in Russian translation. It is also planned to issue at the earliest date official publications of the Constitution in English and French, and then, in cooperation with the Nationalities Ministry of Ukraine, work will be started for its translation into the languages of national minorities resident in Ukraine.

Economic Issues

Ukraine: Security Council Wants Economic Emergency Program Drafted

*LD1807181596 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1749 GMT 18 Jul 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, July 18 (Interfax-Ukraine) — The presidium of the Ukrainian National Security Council gave the government until October 1 to draft a program of the government's economic activities including "emergency measures."

The goals of program must be to eliminate the grey economy, put an end to the crisis and have back wages paid to state employees, says the presidium's statement made public Thursday. The council had met Wednesday following the terrorist attack on Prime Minister Pavel Lazarenko.

The Ukrainian Security Service and the President's Guard Service have a month to look into "the deficient organization of the protection of the country's top officials" and until August 15 to submit proposals on the setting up of an anti-terrorist center.

"The anti-constitutional activities threaten the democratic development of Ukraine, its internal security and position on the international scene. It is essential now that the executive authorities take resolute coordinated action to remedy the situation," the statement says.

The presidium described the attack on Lazarenko as unprecedented in its audacity. It attributes the attack to the "firm line he took in instilling order in the country's economy."

Against a background of an overgrown grey economy the anti-national and anti-constitutional groups have stepped up their activities aimed at using this situation to maintain the influence of criminal clans on the economy, foment enmity in Ukrainian society and destabilize public life in numerous areas, in particular in Crimea and the Donetsk coal mining area.

Ukraine: Prime Minister Says Kiev To Correct Economic Policy

LD1907105396 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0955 GMT 19 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The new Government of Ukraine shall have to "correct to a certain measure its financial and economic policy," Ukrainian Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko said.

Speaking at a meeting in Kiev on Friday with Latvia's Foreign Minister Valdis Birkavs, he pointed out that "it has become possible to curb inflation from 9% early in the year down to 0.1% in June due to tough monetary measures."

Yet, "the inflation rate can be lowered down to 2%-3% so as not to bring excessive pressure on the economy," Lazarenko believes.

The Prime Minister emphasized that the "new Government due to be formed before August 1, 1996, expresses full support for the course pursued by President Kuchma and will do its best to implement it in practice."

Pavlo Lazarenko also said that "a number of measures will be taken before mid-August to end the crisis of unpaid bills and ensure economic recovery."

Ukraine: Kiev To Ask IMF for Support of New National Currency

LD1807180796 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1746 GMT 18 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, July 18 (Interfax-Ukraine) — Ukraine intends to ask the International Monetary Fund for money to form a fund for the stabilization of the new national currency, the hryvna, National Bank of Ukraine Chairman Viktor Yushchenko told a news conference in Kiev Thursday.

He recalled that the IMF board had approved a mechanism for the provision of the money to Ukraine in 1995. According to Yushchenko, Ukraine may be the first country to use IMF money to form a special fund for a currency reform.

The issue and all possible difficulties of the project's implementation were discussed at a seminar organized by the IMF and the World Bank in Washington last June, he said. The fund for the stabilization of the hryvna is expected to total $1.5 billion.

Yushchenko said the seminar participants analyzed common approaches to the implementation of an Extended Fund Facility project which could provide about $2.5 billion to Ukraine.

During the latest visit to Kiev by an IMF mission the sides agreed to amend the memorandum on the Ukrainian economic policy in 1996, in particular to broaden the National Bank's possibilities in the use of currency reserves, he said.

These reserves can now be temporarily used to cover the budget deficit in connection with delays of foreign aid, said the banker.

Ukraine: Kiev Lifts Restraints on Foreign Users of Currency

LD1807153096 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1517 GMT 18 Jul 96

[By BUSINESS-TASS]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, July 18 (Itar-Tass) — Board chairman of the National Bank of Ukraine Viktor Yushenko on Thursday declared that the Ukrainian banks will no longer restrict transactions with karbovanets by non-resident banks.

Earlier this week, the above restrictions ingited a conflict between Russia and Ukraine after Kiev clamped down limits on operations of Russian banks using Ukrainian currency and Moscow told Russian companies to refrain from using Ukrainian currency at all in their deals.

Russia's move was seen by many as an act of retaliation for the establishment by the National Bank of Ukraine a "special regime for the use of the Ukrainian karbovanets by non-resident banks from the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Baltic countries".

Speaking at a news conference, Yushenko did not give a direct answer to what forced Ukraine to lift the restrictions but said the move was not a retreat as the National Bank of Ukraine will be looking for other ways of strengthening control over movement of financial resources on the accounts held by non-residents in Ukrainian banks.

Yushenko further attacked "Russian colleagues" whose "numerous statements voicing a negative attitude to the measures taken by the National Bank of Ukraine on July 12 to regulate the use of accounts in Ukrainian banks" have "nothing to do with reality, to put it mildly."

"The board of the National Bank of Ukraine has not and will never pursue an aim that would narrow the market for the karbovanets," he said.

"On the contrary, all necessary measures will be taken to broaden the use of the karbovanets as legal tender, including by non-residents," Yushenko stressed.

Ukraine: Official Denies Changes in Privatization Policy

WS1607083996 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0028 GMT 16 Jul 96

[Reported by Voloymyr Katsman]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, July 15. State Property Fund Chairman Yuriy Yekhanurov issued a statement Monday [15 July] saying no changing in Ukraine privatization policies are expected in an attempt to quell a rash of rumors resulting from recent remarks by Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko to Parliament.

Lazarenko reportedly said that in his opinion, the privatization can be effective in the case if 51 percent of an enterprise shares belongs to the state.

"Words of Pavlo Lazarenko need to be clarified," Yekhanurov said in the statement. Yekhanurov said Lazarenko's remarks are applicable to those enterprises that presently aren't subject to privatization. If the list of such enterprises will be canceled in September, as will be requested by the SPF [State Property Fund] and Cabinet of Ministers, the state will sell 49 percent of enterprise shares, and later it will decide on selling additional shares.

Most likely, government will decide to retain ownership of 51 percent of shares of enterprises that are state monopolies. However, this isn't applied to the 208 enterprises, mostly monopolies, that will be privatized according to individual plans, Yekhanurov said.

Moldova

Moldova: Dniester Parliament Head on Status of Talks With Moldova

LD1807204996 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 2035 GMT 18 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Another crisis is looming at the talks between Chisinau and Tiraspol on settling the Dniester region's problem. Moldovan President Mircea Snegur has said that in his view, the signing of a memorandum on the status of the Dniester region is not expedient before the election campaign ends, that is before this December. Our correspondent, Yuriy Selivanov, met Grigoriy Marakutsa, chairman of the Dniester republic's parliament, and asked him to comment on the situation that had taken shape.

[Begin recording] [Marakutsa] I would not like to make final assessments or to say who is right and who is not before we have met the Moldovan leadership and sorted things out face to face. The parliamentary commissions of the Dniester region and Moldova are now going to meet to discuss this issue and they will make a joint statement. This too will help to establish the truth in this respect.

[Selivanov] As I see it, there is now some document signed by top leaders, and the document defines the Dniester region's international legal status.

[Marakutsa] There is such a document indeed. It states to the world, ourselves, and the guarantor countries that in the future relations between Chisinau and Tiraspol will be settled only by peaceful means and dialogue. Second, we will continue a search for ways to establish state and legal relations between ourselves.

[Selivanov] So what barriers are there to the final signing of the memorandum?

[Marakutsa] I think there are political ambitions at play here. Presidential elections in Moldova are drawing closer. Since the incumbent president would like to take part in the next elections it appears he was forced to distance himself from this document.

[Selivanov] The media have been mentioning of late the possibility of Aleksandr Lebed, secretary of the Russian Security Council, becoming engaged in the process of a Dniester settlement.

[Marakutsa] I do not believe that he could change the overall stand taken by Russia on this issue. The Russian position shows that it is prepared to do everything and it is doing a great deal in order to ensure peace and accord in the region so that we and Moldova ourselves could find a mutually-acceptable formula of our relations. And the guarantor countries can only guarantee that both sides should abide by the agreements reached between ourselves. [end recording]

Moldova: Defense Minister Creanga Dismissal 'Unconstitutional'

MM1907101596 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Jul 96 p 7

[Report by correspondent Lyudmila Feliksova: "Generals Mount All-Around Defense"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Chisinau — I would remind readers that in the spring of this year Moldovan President Mircea Snegur issued an edict releasing Defense Minister Pavel Creanga, who had leveled serious charges of corruption against him, from his post. The parliament and the premier disagreed with the president. A dangerous situation of dyarchy arose in the military department: There were two defense ministers, and division and ferment prevailed in the ranks of the Army.

An end seemed to have been put to this dispute by a ruling of the Constitutional Court, to which deputies had appealed. The court ruled that the president's edict was invalid. The president apparently gave way. However, as the events of recent weeks have shown, Mircea Snegur had not conceded but had merely called a time-out, which was followed by the issuing of an order drastically limiting the minister's powers. He is forbidden, for example, to hold assemblies, and it is possible to exchange information with subordinates only after this has been cleared with the appropriate presidential services. In short, the defense minister has been ordered to become a token minister who can turn up at the office but is not at liberty to make decisions or issue instructions.

Pavel Creanga has publicly expressed the opinion that such a situation, where the president effectively takes over the command and control of the Army, harbors a serious danger. In response, the president sent a letter to the republic's general prosecutor demanding that "the minister's unlawful actions be urgently investigated and necessary measures taken." The message, according to the president, was perfectly well intentioned: To thwart attempts to destabilize the situation in the National Army and prevent it becoming involved in politics. From the president's standpoint, "Pavel Creanga's conduct is incompatible with military regulations," and therefore the head of executive authority is effectively redemanding the defense minister's removal from office.

Parliament, however, still regards such a step as inadvisable, particularly in the runup to the presidential election, the date of which has already been determined.

It will be held 17 November. After the election of the head of state the cabinet will be reformed and then, in the parliamentarians' opinion, it will be possible to sort out the problem of the defense minister. The Parliamentary Commission on State Security considers that hasty steps against the defense ministry could result in the destabilization of the situation, which the president so fears. For his part, Pavel Creanga charges the executive authorities with attempting to involve the army in political showdowns; he intends to abide strictly by the constitutional norms.

A collective statement signed by National Army brigade commanders and 15 Defense Ministry generals and other officers has been circulated in the press here. It notably says that the president's claim that an alarming situation exists in the army is wrong. The acute situation caused by his spring edict has been defused.

The endurance test suffered by the government ranks has not yielded the expected results to date. By all accounts, parliament does not intend to surrender the ministers. True, Mircea Snegur has been supported by the opposition, which has demanded in parliament the resignation of not just the defense minister but the whole cabinet. The deputies have again failed to comply. The draft decree releasing four ministers, including Creanga, from office have not been passed by them.

The parliamentarians have proposed an alternative: To instruct the prosecutor's office to submit a report on measures taken by 1 October. The reason for this is the investigation of a number of ministers by the Comptroller's Office, which has discovered a number of violations. Having failed for the time being to consign the defense minister into retirement, the president has come out with another initiative — introducing scripture as a subject into schools. This switching around of the president's interests is easy to explain: The election campaign will start up in the middle of August.

Moldova: PSM's Morev Considers Snegur 'Right-Wing Unionist'

AU1807190696 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1930 GMT 17 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Balti 17/07/1996 (BASA-press) — Balti Mayor Victor Morev, deputy chairman of the Moldovan Socialist Party (PSM), said President Mircea Snegur was leading the destructive forces in Moldova.

Morev told the local TV station on Tuesday that President Snegur was the most dangerous exponent of the right-wing unionist forces.

Referring to the split within the PSM, Morev accused the Krylov-Abramciuc group of playing a political game favorable to Mircea Snegur and called them renegades and traitors.

Morev called on Balti inhabitants to support his party, adding "only the PSM can secure a future for the workers, farmers and intellectuals."

At the same time, Morev said though the socialists do not find Premier Andrei Sangheli perfect, he is however the most important and realistic politician in Moldova.

Morev hinted that the Socialists would support Sangheli in the 1996 presidential vote.

Kazakhstan

Kazakhstan: Malaysia's Mahathir Begins Official Visit, Signs Accords

BK1907082796 Kuala Lumpur THE STAR in English 19 Jul 96

[Unattributed report — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Almaty (Kazakhstan): Malaysia and Kazakhstan signed three agreements yesterday to enhance co-operation between the two countries.

Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir Mohamed and President Nursultan Nazarbayev led the way with a joint statement which outlined the basis for closer ties.

Among the MoUs [memorandums of understanding] was one signed by Works Minister Datuk Sri S. Samy Vellu and Kazakhstan's Transport and Communications Minister, Laurinenko, and another signed by Bank Negara [Central Bank] deputy governor Fong Weng Phak and the deputy chairman of the National Bank of Kazakhstan, Kadyrzhan Domitov, for closer banking ties.

The prime minister, accompanied by Datin Sri Dr Siti Hasmah Ali, and a delegation of Cabinet ministers, mentris besar [chief ministers] and businessmen are here for a three-day official visit.

Dr Mahathir told a press conference that during their one-hour discussion, President Nazarbayev expressed his wish to use Malaysia as a model for his country's development.

Dr Mahathir said he offered to help Kazakhstan in its plan to build a new capital as Malaysia was building one currently.

Speaking at a dinner later, Dr Mahathir said the proposed trans- Asia railway system could be linked to Kazakhstan because the central Asian country was an important gateway between East Asia, Russia and Europe.

Kazakhstan: Nazarbayev, Malaysian Premier Sign Joint Declaration

LD1807194596 Almaty Kazakh Television First Program Network in Russian 1400 GMT 18 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Prime Minister of Malaysia Mahathir bin Mohamad began an official visit to Kazakhstan today.

President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev met Mahathir bin Mohamad at his residence. [passage omitted] Nazarbayev and Mohamad had a conversation. Afterward, the two countries' official delegations held talks. Undoubtedly, out of the documents that have been signed today the most important one is a joint declaration of the Republic of Kazakhstan and Malaysia signed by Nazarbayev and Prime Minister Mohamad. The sides confirmed their desire to develop friendly relations and promote close cooperation between the two countries and peoples. In particular, the statement confirms bilateral support for these countries' business circles in their endeavor to cooperate in different areas, holding consultations at various levels on political, economic, trade, and cultural issues, and the intention to cooperate closely within the framework of regional and international organizations.

Yuriy Lavrinenko, Kazakhstani minister of transport and Communications, and Samy Vellu, the Malaysian minister of works and public utilities, signed an intergovernmental agreement on air communications.

A memorandum of understanding between the National Bank of Kazakhstan and Bank Negara Malaysia, which was signed by Kadyrzhan Damitov and Fonk Veng Fak, deputy chairmen of these banks, has also come into force today.

At a news conference after the talks Nazarbayev stressed:

[Begin Nazarbayev recording] We have laid a foundation for mutual understanding between our states; we have created a legal basis so that our businessmen might work effectively. [end recording]

Malaysian business circles intend to take part in construction of Akmola [new Kazakh capital] — they have experience of moving capitals. As for bilateral consultations, a group of Kazakh economists is soon to go to Malaysia to take part in the work of that country's council for economic planning and to study Malaysian experience in economic planning and construction of a new capital, and issues relating to privatization.

Kazakakhstan: IMF Approves $446 Million Credit to Almaty

LD1907105796 Almaty Kazakh Television First Program Network in Russian 1400 GMT 18 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The IMF on 17 July approved the allocation to Kazakhstan of an extended credit worth $446 million. The money is being allocated to support the medium-term government program for economic reform for 1996-1998. Almaty is to receive $54 million of the credit this year.

As the IMF's statement says, 1995 was the most successful year for Kazakhstan's economy since the republic gained its independence. The aim of the programme which has been approved by the fund is to reduce annual inflation from 60 to 10 percent within three years and to achieve at least a 2 percent growth in gross domestic product and a sharp rise in budget revenues.

Kazakhstan: Foreign Minister Condemns Turkestan Separatist Campaign

MM1907101696 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Jul 96 p 3

[Report by Anatoliy Ladin: "Kazakhstan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 'East Turkestan'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Addressing journalists, Qasymzhomart Toqayev, Kazakhstan's minister of foreign affairs, expressed a negative attitude to the so-called committee of East Turkestan. Formerly the headquarters of this organization was in Istanbul. But the committee has now developed activities in Kazakhstan and other Central Asian republics, propagandizing the idea of creating a buffer state between China and Kazakhstan.

Let us note that back in October 1995 the Kazakhstani General Prosecutor's Office checked out the activities of the so-called United National Revolutionary Front of East Turkestan and of the editorial office of its press organ GOLOS VOSTOCHNOGO TURKESTANA [Voice of East Turkestan]. Since both organizations proved not to have been registered, the republic General Prosecutor's Office took appropriate administrative measures.

At the same time a representation was submitted to the leader of another unregistered public association called the "Organization for the Liberation of Uygurstan," demanding the immediate cessation of the organization's activities and of publication of the unregistered monthly UYGURSTAN.

Toqayev pointed out that it is practically impossible today for persons of Uygur nationality to cross from China to Kazakhstan. The border is guarded quite reliably. There were mass crossings in 1958 and 1962. They led to the well-known complications in USSR-PRC bilateral relations. According to Toqayev's statement, the Kazakhstani and Chinese Governments will take the lessons of history into account and will take the necessary measures to stabilize the situation.

Meanwhile, according to information received, the Chinese authorities are also commenting scathingly on the fact of the fanning of separatist sentiments in the Xinjiang-Uygur Autonomous Region. According to a spokesman for the PRC Ministry of Foreign Affairs, it is a question of attempts by "a small handful of people to undermine public order" with a view to destabilizing the situation. In the Chinese diplomat's opinion, the nationalists' activities cannot influence the existing good relations between China and Kazakhstan, since both countries unequivocally condemn the separatists' activities.

Kazakhstan: Economic Achievements Report Gloomy

LD1807173096 Almaty KARAVAN-BLITS in Russian 12 Jul 96 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] KARAVAN-BLITS has already informed people of the report on human development prepared by the Institute of Strategic Studies under the president of the republic. We will acquaint you in more detail with this rather interesting document in this issue.

So, according to the authors of the report, what does our state look like?

According to UN data, in 1991, Kazakhstan occupied 61st place out of 173 states of the world in terms of human development (which means: a combination of life expectancy, acquiring education, and real gross domestic product per capita).

Since then, the republic has sunk to 100th place. That means, six years ago we were on par with Poland and Mexico, within three years — with Moldova and Albania, and now we are hardly at the level of the Philippines.

Now the details. As far as the first indicator, the volume of GDP, is concerned, as you understand, it has pretty well dropped over five years. The biggest drop — 25.4 percent — was in 1994.

Industrial output has not pleased Kazakh strategists particularly. Last year over 40 percent of enterprises in the republic were loss-making.

What is happening with the much-appraised foreign investments in which so many hopes were pinned recently? Also nothing good. Capitalists do not want to speed up investment of their hard-earned dollars in our economy. The volume of investment was down by 27 percent on the 1994 figure. As a result of this regrettable occurrence, three state programs have more or less failed. The results of investment policy are also quite revealing today.

Investments have been mainly in the form of credits, which form 80 percent of total investments. This has caused a phenomenal growth in Kazakhstan's foreign debt, which reached $2.5 billion (75 percent of the annual volume of the country's exports) last year.

Here, a legitimate question: How and, mainly, with what do we hope to settle up with our creditors, all the more so, say the report's authors, that the republic could not manage investments effectively just when the investment flow was at its peak (between 1992 and 1994).

Nor has privatization rescued us. For example, in agriculture, political motives, not economic expediency, have been the driving force. And we had better not speak about legal provisions for the process [of privatization].

The result turned out to be quite natural — the trend of setting up many private farms caused serious, if not irreparable, damage to the process of property reform.

Now a quotation: "By the end of 1994, the government came to understand that this kind of privatization is not a success, but on the contrary is damaging the economy."

The government understood it, but no real steps were taken to change the situation for the better.

The level of education, from childhood, is another important indicator of human development. But what level can we talk about, I ask, when some kindergartens and creches are closed, while others are on their last legs?

As far as secondary schools are concerned, according to the conclusions of the Institute of Strategic Studies, the state education system is unable to fulfill its tasks. And, in case anyone did not know, we have ceased to be a country with a literate public. Oh, what has happened to those Soviet times when every normal and healthy person could read and write? Where are our victorious statistics about the most literate country? Only in our memory.

You could spend a long time listing all the facts highlighted by the report. One glance is enough at some headlines, like: "Growth of Mortality" or "Poverty and Criminality." But I do not think there is any particular need. So much has already been written.

Recently, readers of KARAVAN-BLITS could familiarize themselves with the conclusions of international organizations, which have given rather a skeptical assessment of our reform achievements. Now we can see what the Kazakh specialists think. There is also one more important point. The report was drawn up not to satisfy idle curiosity, but with quite a concrete purpose — to show results, to indicate the problems and, what is important, to introduce corrections to the economic and social policy being pursued by the country's leadership.

But will our powers that be want to make use of them? Slump, poverty, mortality, but, as for the rest, nothing much to worry about, be happy.

Tajikistan

Tajikistan: Government Makes 'Significant' Concessions

MM1907104396 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 Jul 96 p 3

[Report by Vitaliy Strugovets: "Gunmen To Don Police Uniform? Tajikistan's Leadership Declares Readiness To Include Opposition Leaders in Government and To Legalize Their Parties in Republic"]

[FBIS Translated Text] As we predicted in our commentaries on the inter-Tajik talks taking place in Ashgabat, official Dushanbe has made significant concessions to the opposition. Tajik Foreign Minister Talbak Nazarov, head of the government delegation, has publicized the republic leadership's new peace proposals. In accordance with them it is proposed to convene a Forum of Peoples of Tajikistan in Dushanbe before the end of August, with representatives of the government, the opposition, and the organizations which signed the Treaty on Social Accord participating on an equal footing.

It is proposed that the forum will form a conciliation commission with the sides participating equally in order to prepare recommendations on making amendments and additions to the existing Tajik Constitution. Which, let me observe, was only recently flatly denied by official Dushanbe. In addition, opposition representatives' participation in the republic government and local organs of power should also be ensured. Representatives of the United Tajik Opposition will also be included as members of the Presidential Council. All political parties and movements whose manifestos do not contravene the constitution will be legalized.

In addition to this proposal, the Tajik Government is putting forward a number of confidence-building measures, including some envisaging the termination of hostilities on the Tajik-Afghan border and inside the country for the entire period of the Tajik talks. Furthermore, it is proposed to give opposition supporters among former law enforcement organ personnel who were not criminally prosecuted before 1992 the opportunity to work in Tajikistan's power structures.

Thus it can be stated that practically all the opposition's proposals have been accepted by the Republic of Tajikistan leadership. According to Dietrich Merrem, the UN secretary general's special representative for Tajikistan, the international community has given the warring sides five months to solve the fundamental questions.

Tajikistan: Peace Talks Participants Expected To Sign Cease-Fire

LD1907104896 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1011 GMT 19 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ASHGABAT, July 19 (Interfax) — The participants in the inter-Tajik talks are expected to sign a statement on a cease-fire in the Tavil-Dara region of Tajikistan on Friday [19 July].

Opposition leader Akbar Turajonzoda has said that the agreement will take effect the day after it is signed at noon local time.

He said that both delegations, in separate consultations with the special U.N. secretary-general's envoy, Herd Merrem, agreed on a statement concerning the safe movement of cargo and people.

The agreed draft statement says that both sides will remove mines and blocks from all roads in the areas they control and guarantee the safe movement of cargo, humanitarian supplies and civilians.

U.N. military observers are due to arrive in Tavil-Dara within three days from the time the statement takes effect. The warring parties must disengage within ten days.

Tajikistan: Rakhmanov Appoints New Head of Tavil-Dara District

LD1807200396 Dushanbe KHOVAR in Russian 1140 GMT 18 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Under a decree by the President Tajikistan Emomali Rakhmanov, of 18 July, Saydamir Safarovich Delvohov has been appointed chairman of Tavil-Dara District.

Under a decree by President of Tajikistan Emomali Rakhmanov, of 18 July, Subhonqul Shomahmadovich Shoymardanov has been appointed acting chairman of Gazimalik District of Khatlon Region.

Under a decree by President Tajikistan Emomali Rakhmanov, of 18 July, Bobomurod Ashurmahmadovich Tabarov has been relieved of his post as chairman of Gazimalik District of Khatlon Region for lack of supervision and his unscrupulous attitude to work, which has caused economic recession in the district.

Turkmenistan

Turkmenistan: Niyazov Leaves for Iran, May Discuss Regional Issues

LD1507165696 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1645 GMT 15 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ASHGABAT, July 16 (Interfax) — Turkmen President Saparmurad Niyazov left for Iran Monday [15 July].

Officials in his headquarters told Interfax that he and Iranian officials will discuss the implementation of earlier agreements. The presidents of the two countries may discuss regional affairs, in particular the situation in Tajikistan.

The visit will end on July 18.

Turkmenistan: Niyazov Hopes For Speedy Definition of Caspian Sea Status

LD1807132896 Moscow INTERFAX in English 15[illegible] GMT 18 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ASHGABAT, July 18 (Interfax) — Turkmen President Saparmurad Niyazov voiced hope for the speedy definition of the status of the Caspian Sea after returning to Ashgabat from a four day visit to Iran Thursday.

According to the presidential press service, the main subjects of his talks with Iranian leaders were the sea status and the implementation of bilateral agreements.

The president hoped that the similarity of approaches of Turkmenistan, Iran and Russia to the Caspian status will help determine it soon together with other coastal countries.

After his July 8-9 visit to Turkmenistan Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeniy Primakov said Ashgabat and Moscow see eye to eye on the status of the sea.

The status and other related matters are expected to be discussed at a meeting of foreign ministers of coastal countries due in Ashgabat in autumn.

Turkmenistan: Foreign Minister Meets With Indian Prime Minister

LD1407154596 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1537 GMT 14 Jul 96.

[By Leonid Kotov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] NEW DELHI, July 14 (Itar-Tass) — India will not change its friendly policy towards Turkmenistan and considers its relations with this country as "top-priority." Indian prime minister

H.D. Deve Gowda said on Sunday during his meeting with visiting Turkemistan's deputy prime minister and foreign minister Boris Shikhmuradov.

We attach great importance to close economic cooperation with Turkmenistan both at the bilateral level and within the framework of the tripartite memorandum of mutual understanding between India, Iran and Turkmenista, H.D. Deve Gowda said.

According to the Indian premier, fifteen-million-U.S. dollars Indian credits to Ashgabat will help strengthen trade and economic ties between the two countries and facilitate the creation of joint ventures in the spheres of pharmaceutics, oil and gas industry and in other fields.

Shikhmuradov handed over to the Indian prime minister Turkmenistan President Saparmurad Niyazov's personal message. The message stresses the importance of bilateral relations which promote peace and cooperation across entire Asia.

Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan: Customs Official, Iranian Counterpart Discuss Cooperation

*LD1907083096 Tehran IRNA in English
0606 GMT 19 Jul 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku, July 19, IRNA — Visiting head of Iran's customs administration 'Abdollah Hoseyn Vahaji and Deputy Chairman of Azeri National Assembly Yashar Aliyev here Thursday discussed issues of mutual interest and explored avenues for bolstering Tehran-Baku relations in all areas.

As the Azeri head of Iran-Azerbaijan joint economic commission, Aliyev voiced his readiness to make great efforts to promote bilateral relations.

He further stressed the key role of the two countries' customs offices play in expanding mutual ties.

Outlining the activities of the Islamic Republic's customs offices located along Iran-Azerbaijan border areas, Vahaji said that strengthening of ties is to the benefit of both countries.

The Iranian official arrived here Monday on a four-day official visit to the republic.

Azerbaijan: Cabinet Meets; Premier To Be Relieved of Post

*NC1807125196 Baku TURAN in English
0100 GMT 18 Jul 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku/18.07.96/TURAN — Today enlarged session of the Cabinet of Ministers has started in Baku. President Aliyev also attends the session and there is life brodcasting of the session on Azeri television. The session will last two days and for this time reports of heads of all leading Ministries and structures will be heard. The situation in leading fields of economy and course of privatization will be analysed and structural changes in the Cabinet of Ministers will be discussed.

The first Prime-Minister, Fuad Guliyev, has taken the floor and said that it is necessary to conduct structural changes in the Cabinet of Ministers. He said the current structure of the Cabinet of Ministers does not give the opportunity to manage the economy of the country.

Azeri President has negatively interpreted Premier's speech and accused Premier of hindering economic reforms and unwillingness to take the responsibility upon oneself.

As reliable sources report the session will result in relieve of Premier, Fuad Guliyev, from his office. He will be sent to a western countries for a diplomatic mission. First vice-premier, Artur Rasizade, will temporarily perform the functions of the Premier. Simultaneously, several vice-premiers will be dismissed, number employees of the Cabinet of Ministers will be reduced and many structures of the Cabinet will be liquidated.

Azerbaijan: Parliament Adopts Law Providing for Private Land Ownership

*LD1707143996 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
0933 GMT 17 Jul 96*

[By Sevindzh Abdullayeva, Viktor Shulman]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BAKU, July 17 (Itar-Tass) — Azerbaijan's parliament on Tuesday adopted a law allowing to turn over a considerable part of the country's land reserves to private owners.

The law, the first to provide for private land owenership in the country, envisages that 22 percent (1.9 million hectares) of the land reserves will be turned over free of charge to 3.5 million Azerbaijan citizens residing in rural areas. The rest part will remain property of the state and municipalities which are yet to be formed.

The law also stipulates for renting out or turning over a land plot for temporary use to citizens of other countries. But foreigners have no right to purchase land in Azerbaijan.

Georgia

Georgia: Shevardnadze Comments on Russia's Rodionov Appointment

*LD1807162396 Tbilisi IPRINDA in Russian
1350 GMT 18 Jul 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Tbilisi, 18 Jul— An IPRINDA correspondent has reported that, with regard to the appointment of General Igor Rodionov to the post of Russian defense minister, Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze has said: "It does not seem quite ethical for the president of a country to comment on new appointments in another country. Nevertheless, in response to numerous appeals and questions, I would say that 9 April 1989, will remain as an open wound in the hearts of all Georgians. Generals execute orders from their superiors. This was the case in Afghanistan and this was the case in Tbilisi. Those in the highest echelons who make decisions and issue orders should be submitted to the verdict of history. General Rodionov should implement the course Russia voted for on 3 July. This is also in the interest of Georgia."

Georgia: 'Mixed Reaction' to Rodionov's Appointment Seen

LD1807202396 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1956 GMT 17 Jul 96

[By Tenghiz Pachkoria]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TBILISI, July 17 (Itar-Tass) — News of the appointment of General Rodionov as the Minister of Defence of Russia was received with mixed reaction in Georgia in which the name of the Russian general gives rise to emotional overtones which are far from pleasant.

The inhabitants of Georgia remember the tragic events that occurred on January 9, 1989 when General Rodionov commanded the Russian troops which clamped down on the pro-independence demonstration in Tbilisi.

"Despite the fact that it is psychologically very difficult for us, Georgians, to accept the fact that General Rodionov has been appointed to the post of Russian Defence Minister, I believe that a dialogue and meetings with General Rodionov on problems of mutual interest are quite possible, and we should do it, proceeding from the state interests of Georgia," Kakhi Chitaya, chairman of the Committee for External Relations of the Georgian parliament, said today.

Appearing live on national television, he stressed that relations between countries were determined not by individuals with their personal interests, but by the state interests of those countries.

Although General Rodionov is partially responsible for what took place in Tbilisi on April 9, 1989, which he himself admitted, "we cannot say that he masterminded and organised those tragic developments," Chitaya said.

Chitaya was the first Georgian official to comment on the appointment of General Rodionov to the post of the Russian Defence Minister.

Earlier, Irina Sarishvili-Chanturia, leader of the oppositional National Democratic party of Georgia, declared that "We shall treat General Rodionov not as a private individual and general but as the Minister of Defence of the Russian Federation." Irina Sarishvili-Chanturia told journalists today.

The press secretary of the President of Georgia, Vakhtang Abashidze declined to comment on the appointment of Igor Rodionov as Russia's defence minister on Wednesday and no comment was immediately available from the Ministry of Defence of Georgia.

On Thursday, the presidential press secretary said at a briefing for journalists that "Eduard Shevardnadze thinks that it is not ethical for him as the President of Georgia to comment on staff appointments in another state" for the press.

Nonetheless, Abashidze quoted Eduard Shevardnadze as telling Georgia's National Security Council that "The ninth of April is a deep, festering wound in the heart of every inhabitant of Georgia. But it is necessary to remember that the generals carry out orders they receive from the commanders-in-chief; it was so in Afghanistan, it was so in Tbilisi. Those must be put before the court of history who makes decisions and issues orders in the upper echelons of power."

Shevardnadze also noted that "General Rodionov must pursue the policy for which Russia voted in the July 3 presidential elections in Russia — and that policy is in the interests of Georgia."

Georgia: UN Peacekeepers Remain in Abkhazia Despite Expired Mandate

LD1907101796 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1006 GMT 19 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, July 19 (Interfax) — The U.N. collective peacekeeping force remains in the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict zone despite the expiration of its mandate on July 19, Russian First Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Pastukhov told Interfax Friday.

An active discussion of their presence is underway in Moscow with both parties to the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict, and the peacekeepers, almost all of whom are Russian citizens, will remain in the conflict zone at the current time, he said.

Georgia has repeatedly said there is no need to prolong the peacekeepers' mandate if their functions are not expanded.

The Georgian Security Council sees four aspects "to be obligatorily taken into account, including at the Moscow consultations on the Abkhazian settlement," spokesman for the Georgian president Vakhtang Abashidze told a briefing in Tbilisi on Thursday.

These are the spread of the peacekeeping operation throughout Abkhazia, the safe return of refugees with the help of special peacekeeper check points, the safety of U.N. military observers, the demining of territories and removal of fortifications in Abkhazia.

Abkhazia is strongly against such changes in the troops's mandate but wants the peacekeepers to continue doing their job on the existing terms.

Moscow does not think it possible to change the peacekeepers' functions without the agreement of both parties to the conflict.

A withdrawal of the peacekeepers from the conflict zone is fraught with the resumption of combat operations and an escalation of the confrontation, military and diplomatic specialists of Russia and the United Nations, as well as some politicians in Georgia and Abkhazia, have said.

Georgia: Abkhazia Blames Tbilisi for Failure of Talks

LD1807172096 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian
1430 GMT 18 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Moscow, 18 Jul — An IBERIA correspondent has been told at the Georgian embassy in Moscow that Abkhaz-Georgian consultation on the future status of Abkhazia, which is being held in Moscow under the UN aegis and Russia's mediation, has proved to be absolutely fruitless so far. The Abkhaz side has made not an iota of concession and has stated that it is ready to set up a so-called federal union with Georgia, that is a federate state consisting of two equal entities. [passage omitted]

This morning, the so-called Abkhaz Foreign Ministry circulated a statement through the so-called Abkhaz representative's office in Moscow, which says that negotiations between Georgia and Abkhazia in Moscow are ending in failure because of an "uncompromising stand taken by Tbilisi politicians," who in no way want to recognize Abkhazia as an equal entity.

Georgia: Tbilisi Conditions on Renewal of Peacekeepers in Abkhazia

LD1807150896 Tbilisi IPRINDA in Russian
1350 GMT 18 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Tbilisi, 18 Jul — Vakhtang Abashidze, press secretary of the Georgian president, held a regular briefing today, an IPRINDA correspondent reported. [passage omitted]

The Georgian National Security Council considered the Abkhazian issue at its morning meeting, Abashidze said. He said that talks on the issue were in progress in Moscow and reminded the journalists that the mandate of the Russian peacekeeping forces was expiring on 19 July. [passage omitted]

The Abkhaz side has apprehended the UN Security Council [12 July] resolution painfully and has sent protest appeals to various international organizations. UN envoy Edouard Brunner cut short the outburst and said that unless actions like that were stopped, the United Nations would be forced to quit peace talks and to give Georgia a free hand in resolving its own problems.

According to Abashidze, Georgia will not raise the issue of renewing the mandate at the talks under way in Moscow until the following points are met:

1. Peacekeeping operations should cover the whole territory of Abkhazia.

2. Checkpoints of the peacekeeping forces should be established in order to secure the return of refugees and displaced persons to Abkhazia and their safe settlement there.

3. The security of the representatives of the United Nations and other international organizations should be guaranteed.

4. Mine fields should be cleared and a timetable for the clean- up operation should be set.

5. Restoration and repair work of communications network and railways should begin as soon as the first stage of the return of refugees to Gali District is achieved.

Georgia: Refugees Press for Russian Pullout From Abkhazia

LD1907105996 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1008 GMT 19 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TBILISI, July 19 (Interfax) — A crowd of about 1,000 Georgian refugees demonstrated in Tbilisi on Friday in support of demands for the withdrawal of Russian peacekeepers whose mandate expires today.

One of the rally's organizers, Murman Beria, accused the peacekeepers of protecting Abkhaz separatists in an interview with Interfax.

"The Georgian Government has led itself into a deadlock by pinning its hopes on Russia as the only country which can help resolve the Abkhaz problem," he said.

Beria said Georgia must appeal to international agencies, above all NATO, to help toward a regional peace settlement.

Estonia

Estonia: Minister Meets Council of Europe Human Rights Envoys

WS1807092196 Tallinn BNS in English
1635 GMT 17 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tallinn, Jul 17, BNS — Estonian Foreign Minister Siim Kallas Wednesday concluded a tour of the Caucasian states and headed for Strasbourg, where he met with ambassadors to the Council of Europe to give them a survey of his visit.

Kallas, who chairs the CE Committee of Ministers, and CE Secretary General Daniel Tarschys visited during the five-day tour Azerbaijan, Georgia and Armenia to look into the readiness of those states to join the European human rights body.

They met with presidents Gaydar Aliyev of Azerbaijan, Eduard Shevardnadze of Georgia and Levon Ter-Petrosyan of Armenia, as well as with each country's Cabinet members and representatives of leading political parties.

The three Caucasian states have formally applied for full membership of the Council of Europe where they at present have visitor's status. Kallas said the visit was an expression of support for the three states' development and democratic reforms.

A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry in Tallinn told BNS Kallas after reporting on the visit met with U.S. Ambassador to France Pamela Harriman, who also serves as U.S. observer with the European human rights body.

The two discussed the cooperation between the Council of Europe and the United States during Estonia's chairmanship.

Estonia: Hillary Clinton 'Dances to Estonia's Tune' on Russians' Rights

MM1707154996 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 16 Jul 96 p 7

[Report by Galina Sapozhnikova: "Hillary Clinton Has Learned To Dance to Estonia's Tune"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tallinn — It is probably true that Hillary Clinton only mechanically repeated Al Gore's famous joke about Estonia being an example to the world as far as tolerance of ethnic minorities is concerned. But she could not have failed to have known that this phrase, prompting a bitter smile from local Russians, would come across as real mockery at a time when thousands of people, resigned to foreigner status, are forming long lines outside the doors of the Department of Citizenship and Migration in order to obtain at least some kind of personal identification document. Their red passports bearing the Soviet stamp will become superfluous bits of paper; non-Estonians have no other documents. So approximately 200,000 people refused citizenship by democratic Estonia will be unable to cross even the one border accessible to them (the Russian border), thereby simultaneously providing yet another example of the mass infringement of human rights. Or, to be more precise, the infringement of the most important human right: the right to freedom of movement.

However, the word "Russian" did feature once in Hillary Clinton's speech, which is indisputable evidence of her awareness that representatives of this nationality do live in the country as well. It was when she solemnly presented a grant worth $24,000 bestowed on Estonia by the U.S. Agency for International Development — to be used for the publication of a brochure on children's rights and its translation into Estonian and Russian.

The most important part of her visit to Tallinn (the very fact of which was seen as a great compliment here, incidentally) was her address to the Baltic peoples, which she delivered in the National Library:

"The Communist bloc with its imperial ways is no longer the main danger to democracy." "Democracy is now threatened by the disorder in the economy which arose after the collapse of the Communist system and by the accompanying nostalgia for the past."

"We must live in peace as neighbors with people who are different from us." But this was said so softly and delicately that no one heard.

Estonia: Foreign Minister Hails 'Success' of CE Visit to Caucasus

WS1907092096 Tallinn ETA in English
1938 GMT 18 Jul 96

["News Release"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tallinn, July 18 (ETA) — Estonian Foreign Minister Siim Kallas said on his return from an official Council of Europe [CE] visit to Caucasus that it had been a success.

Kallas led the Council of Europe delegation in the course of the visit as chairman of the CE Committee of Ministers. He said that preparations for the visit began even before Estonian gained CE chairmanship in order to make of it an event to remember from Estonia's chairing.

The countries visited during the four days included Azerbaijan, Georgia and Armenia. Kallas said he hoped the tour aided to draw the attention of the world to the problems of Caucasus which as a rule has remained outside the interest of the world.

The three countries are in a very grave situation and the scent of war accompanies every step, Kallas said.

Although the Council of Europe is not the place for solving conflicts, it could share its experience how a democratic state should be built, Kallas opined.

The three countries cannot be accepted as CE members before they have solved their regional conflicts, Estonian Foreign Minister said. Additional problems are created by the fact these states are also members of CIS.

The CIS convention of human rights lays down lower standards while control mechanisms are either lacking or of minute importance, Kallas said.

Siim Kallas visited Azerbaijan, Georgia and Armenia together with CE Secretary General Daniel Tarschys. In the course of four days they met with leaders of these states, parliament chairmen and court officials.

All three have the status of a special guest at the Council of Europe and they have applied for full CE membership.

Estonia: Premier Receives British Minister; Agreement Signed

LD1807171096 Tallinn Estonian Television Network in Russian 1545 GMT 18 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Sir Nicholas Bonsor, British minister of state at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, is in Estonia on a two-day visit. During his visit Bonsor has met Prime Minister Tiit Vahi, Foreign Minister Siim Kallas, and European Affairs Minister Endel Lippmaa. On the eve of his Estonian visit Bonsor had said that he would like to see with his own eyes the success Estonia has achieved since regaining its independence in 1991. On behalf of his country's leadership Bonsor communicated words of support to the independence of the Baltic countries and to Estonia's successful movement toward the integration into the family of democratic countries of Europe.

Sir Nicholas Bonsor and Estonian Education Minister Jaak Aaviksoo signed today an agreement on cooperation between Estonia and Britain, in the sphere of culture, science, and education.

Estonia: Russian Groups Plan Election Coalition

WS1707134396 Tallinn BNS in English 1300 GMT 17 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tallinn, Jul 17, BNS — The Russian Party in Estonia and the Russian Christian Union plan to form jointly with war veterans' organizations and the Russian Citizens Union of Estonia a broad coalition for the upcoming local elections.

The Russian Party, veterans' associations of the Christian Union and the United People's Party Monday decided to join their efforts in preparation for the elections, MP Nikolay Maspanov, chairman of the Russian Party, told BNS.

Representatives of the United People's Party said the party would go to local elections with separate tickets.

Maspanov told BNS members of the future election alliance hope to receive support from the parliamentary group of Orthodox deputies, which unites four of the six members of the Russian faction. The other two members of the faction, Victor Andreyev and Sergey Issakov, represent the United People's Party.

"The Russian Party seeks allies also in the left-wing parties representing Estonians," Maspanov noted, but wouldn't say which parties he had in mind.

The Russian Party chairman told BNS the party would by Aug. 9 at the latest put together lists of candidates for Tallinn and other regions. An election platform and plans for the election campaign will be drawn up by the same time, he said.

He promised the documents would be released to the press after approval by the party council.

Latvia

Latvia: Premier Hails Experience of Baltic-U.S. Military Exercises

LD1707152496 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1302 GMT 17 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The week-long international military exercises Baltic Challenge 96 ended at the Adazi training center near Riga today. Over 700 soldiers from the United States of America and the Latvian, Lithuanian, and Estonian Armed Forces took part in them. The exercises, which were held within the framework of the NATO Partnership for Peace program have proved that the joint forces of the Baltic states are professionally trained in various combat disciplines, for example, action on a minefield, activities against snipers in the event of a sniper threat, setting up roadblocks and escorting cargoes, which one should be able to do in peacekeeping operations.

Prime Minister Andris Skele, defense ministers and commanders of the Armed Forces of the Baltic states, foreign diplomats, ambassadors and military attaches and observers took part in the official closing ceremony.

Ainars Asaks, a correspondent from the Latvian radio information service, watched the parade and after that took part in a news conference.

[Asaks] The exercises have ended. However, they are a continuation for further cooperation, further steps on the road of the Baltic states' desire to join NATO. These exercises cost the Americans $4.5 million. The Latvian side, for its part, allocated 18,000 lats for the organization of the exercises to arrange the training center and equip it with necessary communications equipment. Now it can be said that the work that has been done has been a serious test or an examination — especially for Latvia — which has been passed with flying colors. It was confirmed by both military experts and our Prime Minister Skele, who said the following at the closing ceremony:

[Begin Skele recording] Commanders, officers, and soldiers, I am truly satisfied with the fact that Latvia has been chosen as a country that is receiving joint Estonian, Lithuanian, and American military forces. I am glad our joint Baltic forces obtained practical field and staff experience here at Adazi in the last few days. It will be very useful to take part in the work of peacekeeping forces. The desire to join NATO and a search for appropriate security guarantees means faith in tomorrow for our country. [end recording]

[Asaks] U.S. Army Colonel Andrews and Juris Eihmanis, colonel of the Home Guard of the Republic of Latvia, have been carrying out the duties as the commanders of the Baltic Challenge 96 exercises. What they said at the news conference confirmed that elite battalions and companies of the Latvian Armed Forces, for example, soldiers of the Latvian platoon of the Baltic peacekeeping battalion, a unit of the Suzi reconnaissance battalion, and home guard units of the regular army have achieved commendable results in a few years.

Having watched the parade, I myself would like to add, however, that I noticed a large difference in marching, in marching technique. Latvian, Lithuanian, and Estonian soldiers were too tense when marching. That cannot be said of the Americans.

Juris Eihmanis, commander of the Baltic C[illegible]ge 96, will assess the joint exercises.

[Begin Eihmanis recording] Latvian soldiers did not seem any less prepared than their American colleagues. Of course, there is a lot for us to learn, but in practice we are no longer [word indistinct] as we, perhaps, were two, three, or perhaps even five years ago. Of course, there is very much for us to learn in the professional sphere. I believe that many people have to change a lot in their attitude toward work. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Latvia: Defense Minister Says Joint Baltic Squadron 'Realistic'

WS1807105696 Tallinn BNS in English
1018 GMT 18 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riga, Jul 18, BNS — Plans on setup of a joint Baltic Sea countries' squadron are realistic, considers Latvian Defense Minister Andrejs Krastins.

He told a press conference on Wednesday that the issue has been discussed by the Baltic defense ministers and the commanders of the Latvian, Lithuanian and Estonian naval forces. Krastins added that NATO also has shown interest in setup of such a structure.

The minister said that the respective countries' parliaments are to discuss formation of the squadron, agree on its status and the necessary equipment and material provisions.

He noted that a squadron of destroyers is most likely to be set up.

Latvian Naval Force Commander Gaidis Zeibots told reporters last week that the ongoing Baltic navy exercise Amber Sea is aimed at preparing ships to form a common Baltic squadron.

Zeibots considers that a political decision is needed for setup of the squadron.

Latvia: New Russian Defense Minister's Stance on Baltics Viewed

WS1807105796 Tallinn BNS in English
1018 GMT 18 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riga, Jul 18, BNS — Russia's new Defense Minister Gen. Igor Rodionov takes the Baltic problem very seriously, being one of the few Russian generals who has more than once made sharply worded foreign political statements on this subject.

In an article in the VOYENNAYA MYSL military journal in May 1992, Rodionov listed three out of six foreign political priorities of Russia, which in one way or another concerned the Baltic states.

According to the article, to ensure its security Russia has to achieve free access to Baltic ports and make sure that Central and East European countries adopt a neutral or friendly attitude towards Moscow.

The general saw as one of the cornerstones of Russia's foreign policy the inadmissibility of the presence of third countries' troops on the soil of the Baltic states and the accession of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania to "military blocs aimed against Russia."

Rodionov in his article drew attention to the need to avert the CIS countries becoming a buffer zone between Russia and the West, keep those states in Moscow's sphere of influence and develop good relations with the countries of the Far and Near East.

President Boris Yeltsin appointed the 60-year-old colonel general to Russia's top defense post on Wednesday.

The general started out as a tank platoon commander and saw active service in Afghanistan in the mid-1980s before becoming commander of Soviet forces in the Transcaucasus, the INTERFAX news agency reports.

He commanded the troops in the Transcaucasus when they broke up a peaceful pro-independence rally in the Georgian capital of Tbilisi in April 1989.

After attempts to justify the use of force, Rodionov was transferred to the General Staff Military Academy, which he headed until his appointment as defense minister.

Latvia: Ulmanis Addresses Council of Nationalities on Minorities

LD1707211696 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1623 GMT 17 Jul 96

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [no dateline as received] In his opening remarks to the first session of his Council of Nationalities on Wednesday, Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis said "the council has convened to discuss the most difficult issue we have to deal with today. It cannot be solved in the way we solve the questions of privatization or agricultural reform."

The council, set up several days ago, said the main problems facing ethnic minorities in Latvia include access to citizenship and education and differences in the rights of residents and non-residents.

The presidential press service told Interfax that in the fall the council will start considering a concept of public education for ethnic minorities and will finalize the bill dealing with this problem.

The bill, severly criticized by a number of ethnic communities, has been returned to the parliament's commissions with several hundred amendmendts and corrections.

Ulmanis confirmed his intention to pay more attention "to the most acute ethnic problems facing the country" during his second term of presidency.

The council has no permanent staff, but the president suggested establishing a post of liaison officer between his administration and the council and paying him a salary from his office's budget.

The council will seek to gather information about the status of ethnic minorities in the country and suggest solutions at executive and legislative levels.

Ulmanis stressed that the council will have certain influence on the work of the parliament, the government and other executive bodies.

The council "should be able to analyze inaccuracies in laws, send specific proposals to lawmakers and help them perfect the laws dealing with ethnic issues," he said.

Latvia: Foreign Minister 'Reserved' Toward Visit of Taiwan MPs

WS1707141996 Tallinn BNS in English
1000 GMT 17 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riga, Jul 17, BNS — Latvian Foreign Minister Valdis Birkavs is reserved toward the visit of 11 Taiwanese parliamentarians to Latvia.

He told a press conference on Tuesday that the visit does not change Latvia's foreign policy line "two Chinas — one state."

Birkavs said that Latvia's foreign policy concept provides for government-level contacts with China, but not with Taiwan. In addition, Latvia does not recognize sovereignty of Taiwan and both countries do not have diplomatic relations.

A Taiwanese consulate was operating in Latvia from February of 1992 to July of 1994, and then its status was changed into that of a mission. Shortly before that, Latvia's relations with China had improved.

Birkavs noted that the European Union (EU) countries do not recognize independence of Taiwan, and "Latvia has to respect those values which it strives to take over." Latvia could change its political attitude toward Taiwan if it was decided by the EU, said the minister.

A delegation of the Taiwanese parliament arrived in Latvia on Tuesday and will stay in Latvia until July 19. The guests will meet with representatives of the Saeima, parliament factions and the University of Latvia.

Lithuania

Lithuania: Brazauskas Cites U.S. Support; Invites Clinton To Visit

WS1807091396 Tallinn BNS in English
1846 GMT 17 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, Jul 17, BNS — President Algirdas Brazauskas sent a letter Wednesday to U.S. President Bill Clinton, inviting the American leader to visit Lithuania.

The Lithuanian head of state noted that U.S. support for Lithuania's participation in the NATO expansion process along with other new European democratic governments would serve as another confirmation that Lithuania is an integral part of the Western family of nations.

"Our joint military actions in keeping the peace in Bosnia, Lithuania's efforts to join actively in the creation of a new architecture for European security, to maintain good relations with all neighbors, confirm our resolution and readiness to join in the solution of global problems," Brazauskas noted.

The Lithuanian president recalled in the letter his meeting with Clinton in the White House, which he said demonstrated to the world U.S. support for Lithuanian independence and gave a new impulse to the ever broadening relations between the two countries.

Lithuania: Brazauskas Urges Yeltsin To Help Resolve Bilateral Issues

WS1807091296 Tallinn BNS in English
1846 GMT 17 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, Jul 17, BNS — Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas has called on his Russian counterpart Boris Yeltsin to resolve more rapidly the remaining problems in relations between the two countries.

He said the necessary steps included the delimitation of borders and signing the corresponding documents along with a readmission treaty.

In a letter sent Wednesday [17 July] to the Russian president, Brazauskas stressed the importance of Lithuania's relations with Russia.

Hailing Yeltsin's victory in the presidential elections, Brazauskas said the victory had been achieved by the ballots "cast for Russia's future and for the process of democratization."

"This is an important component in creating stability and security in Europe," Brazauskas noted.

The president's press service said Brazauskas had noted in the letter that Yeltsin's re-election coincided with the fifth anniversary of the treaty on the basic principles of relations between Lithuania and Russia.

The treaty was and remains the keystone in creating greater trust between Lithuania and Russia, the president wrote, noting that the Lithuanian-Russian relations served as a model for other countries in the region.

"The expansion of good-neighborly and friendly cooperation with neighbors will continue to remain one of the priorities of Lithuania's foreign policy," the president said in the letter.

Lithuania: Russia Pressuring U.S. Over Baltic NATO Membership

LD1707182896 Vilnius RESPUBLIKA in Lithuanian
10 Jul 96 p 4

[Editorial article under the title: "East and West Collide over The Baltics;" report entitled: "Russia Exerts Pressure on United States Over the Baltic States"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A sensational report appeared in the Russian newspaper 'IZVESTIYA' on 6 July about Russian President Boris Yeltsin's secret letter to President Clinton, in which Russia speaks firmly against possible NATO membership by the Baltic states.

This fact proves once again that Russia is making every effort to influence Western policies in central and eastern Europe. In its turn, this gives rise to apprehension that the two superpowers may divide the world into spheres of influence. [passage omitted]

It is evident that Moscow is no longer showing an active resistance against NATO membership by some countries, members of the former Warsaw Pact. [passage omitted] The Baltic states and the possibility that they may become members of NATO has become the main focus of Russia's policy on NATO expansion. [passage omitted]

However, in spite of the evident threatening tone of the letter, it is doubtful whether it bears all the importance the Russian diplomats are trying to attach to it. [passage omitted] First of all, there is nothing new in Boris Yeltsin's letter. It was as early as 1994 that Russia first declared that it will not have NATO at its state borders. [passage omitted] Therefore, it is most unlikely that yet another outpour of threats could have influenced Bill Clinton's behavior at the meeting with the presidents of the three Baltic states.

Neither the central European states nor the Baltic states were given guarantees with regard to their NATO membership. All were given the same answer: "NATO will expand, however how much and when will be decided later." [passage omitted]

On the other hand, one must not disregard the fact how and when this letter appeared. It was posted at a time between the first and second rounds of Russia's presidential elections. [passage omitted] It is inconceivable even in such a chaotic country as Russia that the content of the president's confidential letter to another president should be leaked without the consent and wish of the president himself. [passage omitted]

It is rather unclear what exactly Russia could do if the Baltic states were nevertheless accepted into NATO, regardless of Russia's protests. It is most unlikely that Russia would have the resolution and the capacity to get involved in an armed conflict, or would decide to start a third world war.

Most probably, and it is nobody's secret, Russia would refuse to adhere to the CFE Treaty requirements, and would increase its armed forces deployed on the border with the Baltic states.

However, it is most unlikely that this temporary conflict would push Russia into a new arms race, which the Soviet Union lost 10 years ago. This would be above the capacity of Russia's military-industrial complex, which at the moment is in ruins. [passage omitted]

Of course, there is the version that, for the sake of peace and quiet, the United States may come to an agreement with Russia on some kind of influence zones and leave the Baltic states outside NATO. [passage omitted] The United States has its own interests and for the sake of them the Baltic states could be sacrificed. [passage omitted]

In this case, the Baltic states will have to be satisfied with what Russia and a considerable number of Western analysts are offering — membership in the European Union and not in NATO.

It is not clear whether Russia would have essential influence on making this decision. However, one thing is clear, that not much attention will be given to the wishes of the Baltic states. [passage omitted]

[Mr Albinas Januska, Lithuanian deputy foreign minister, answering correspondent's questions]

[Correspondent] How would you describe the Russian president's letter to Bill Clinton?

[Januska] This is a clear attempt to influence the stance adopted by Bill Clinton and other high-ranking U.S. officials on the Baltic states, and on making a statement on human rights violations in these countries. The letter is Russia's bitter attempt to ignore our choice. The final decision will depend on how the United States dares to accept such Russia's bold political move. Generally speaking, Russia cannot do anything about it, because no state has the right to ban other states from joining NATO. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] How would you describe the policy pursued by NATO?

[Januska] I would say that accepting some states and leaving other states in an unclear situation is not the most just policy. The expansion of NATO cannot proceed at the cost of reducing the security of other countries.

I would think that, first, the countries which have been earmarked for future NATO expansion should be named, that is, the space limits of the expansion should be defined. First of all, the issue of "who" must be decided and only then the "when" aspect should be clarified.

I do not understand the decision concerning the acceptance of Poland into NATO, because I think that Poland and the Baltic states are standing on the same level of the political ladder.

[Correspondent] What moves can be expected from Russia if, according to the plan, only several countries will be accepted into NATO?

[Januska] It is difficult to predict. It is not clear whether the first round of expansion will be followed by a second one at all. This will depend on how a NATO of a different composition will be able to adapt, whether the NATO member states will have enough political will, and what view will be adopted on other states.

It is most unlikely that Russia's aggressiveness could be translated into reality because there is discrepancy between Russia's wishes and its possibilities. [passage omitted]

Lithuania: Brazauskas Thanks Kohl for Supporting Baltics' NATO Bid

WS1807091496 Tallinn BNS in English
1846 GMT 17 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, Jul 17, BNS — Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas thanked German Chancellor Helmut Kohl for supporting the Baltic countries' bid for membership in the European Union and said the NATO expansion process was no less important for Lithuania.

In a letter sent Wednesday [17 July] to the German chancellor, Brazauskas requested German support for Lithuania's efforts to join NATO, saying it was only in this manner that Lithuania could participate "in the historic creation of indivisible European security and stability," the presidential press office reported.

Recalling his recent meeting with Kohl in Bonn, the president thanked the chancellor for having adopted a stance in principle that visa requirements in travel between the two countries should be eliminated. He said this was particularly important for expanding bilateral economic, trade and cultural ties.

Brazauskas invited Helmut Kohl to visit Lithuania.

Lithuania: President Writes Letters to U.S., German, Russian Leaders

LD1807141796 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English 0830 GMT 18 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas yesterday [17 July] sent letters to the presidents of the United States, Germany, and Russia.

In his letter to Mr. Bill Clinton, Mr. Brazauskas says the support of the United States to Lithuania's participation in the NATO enlargement process together with Europe's other new democracies would demonstrate that Lithuania is an integral part of the Western community.

According to the presidential press office, in his letter Mr. Brazauskas recalls his recent visit to the White House, which showed the U.S. support to the independence of Lithuania and gave a new impact on the ever strengthening relations between the two countries.

President Brazauskas has thanked German Chancellor Helmut Kohl for support to the Baltic states' membership in the European Union. The Lithuanian president also noted that participation in the NATO enlargement process was as important for the country.

Referring to their recent meeting in Bonn, Mr. Brazauskas thanked Mr. Kohl for his prinicipled position that the interstate visa regime should be lifted. The Lithuanian president expressed his conviction that a visa-free regime would be very important in developing bilateral economic, trade, and cultural relations.

Mr. Brazauskas invited the German Chancellor to visit Lithuania.

The Lithuanian president urged his Russian counterpart, Boris Yeltsin, to speed up the delimitation of the Lithuanian-Russian borders and the signing of the readmission [of illegal migrants] treaty.

In his Wednesday letter to the Russian president, Mr. Brazauskas also stresses the importance of relations with Russia for Lithuania. Mr. Brazauskas expressed his satisfaction with the re-election of Mr. Yeltsin, adding that his victory was the result of people's votes cast for Russia's future and its further democratic process.

In his letter Mr. Brazauskas noted that Mr. Yeltsin's re-election as president coincided with the five-year anniversary of the Lithuanian-Russian treaty on the basis for interstate relations. This treaty remains to be the foundation of the development of Lithuanian-Russian relations.

Lithuania: IAEA Head: Vilnius, Moscow Must Cooperate in Nuclear Power

LD1807111496 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1019 GMT 18 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] VILNIUS, July 18 (Interfax) — Lithuania must continue to cooperate with Russia in the field of nuclear power engineering, Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Hans Blix said at a meeting with President Algirdas Brazauskas in Vilnius.

Such cooperation is necessary, Blix said, since Lithuania's biggest nuclear power station in Ignalina uses Russian-made reactors, and it is more convenient for Lithuania to buy nuclear fuel in Russia, the president's chancellery told Interfax on Thursday.

Lithuania has neither economic nor financial opportunities to stop the operation of the Ignalina station, Blix said.

The Ignalina station is safer than the one in Chernobyl, he said. Lithuania has done much in the last few years to strengthen the safety of its nuclear power station with the help of foreign specialists and credits, he said.

The two men also discussed ways to store nuclear waste and prospects for investment in electricity production in Lithuania.

Blix will visit the Ignalina station on Thursday to inspect its work and review safety problems.

Lithuania: Foreign Minister on Belarus Suggestion for N-Free Zone

WS1807091196 Tallinn BNS in English 1635 GMT 17 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, Jul 17, BNS — Lithuanian Foreign Minister Povilas Gylys has said the Belarus initiative to create a nuclear-free zone is worth discussion, but the creation of such a zone now would not resolve essential problems of Lithuanian security.

Commenting to BNS on the Belarus proposal, Gylys said he viewed integration into the European Union and NATO as Lithuania's basic security guarantees.

Belarus President Alyaksandr Lukashenka made a statement at the beginning of this month, suggesting to discuss the possibility of creating a nuclear-free zone in Central and Eastern Europe. Somewhat earlier, a similar proposal had been made by Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

A week ago, Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas received a letter from Lukashenka in which he proposed discussing the geography, principles and legal aspects of creating such a zone and asked for support for this initiative.

The Lithuanian foreign minister believes that such an initiative reflects only a part of the problems involved in the creation of a new architecture for the security of modern Europe.

"Trans-Atlantic and European integration are priority directions for Lithuanian foreign policy, allowing us to resolve our security issues, confirm our striving for statehood and democratic and market reforms and secure indivisible security in all of Europe," Gylys stressed.

Lithuania: Joint Lithuanian-Polish Peacekeeping Battalion Planned

WS1907084996 Vilnius ELTA in English
1536 GMT 18 Jul 96

[From "News Bulletin" No. 1056]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ALYTUS/VILNIUS, July 18 (ELTA) - Plans are under way to work out documents providing legal base for joint Lithuanian-Polish peacekeeping battalion until October.

The first meeting of both countries groups in Alytus finalized this battalion formation plan.

The most important step is signing of intergovernmental agreement necessary for determining of the battalion's financing, training and other terms, head of peacekeeping division Colonel Lieutenant Gediminas Dapkevicius told ELTA correspondent.

The start of forthcoming year is to see formation of battalion headquarters in both countries, Dapkevicius said. The Lithuanian headquarters are to be established in motorized brigade Gelezinis Vilkas Alytus Duchess Birute battalion.

The battalion soldiers are to be taught English and receive practical peacekeeping training. The first joint Lithuanian-Polish battalion is to be sent for peacekeeping mission in 1999.

Lithuania: MPs Urge Government To Recognize Chechnya

WS1907084896 Vilnius ELTA in English
1536 GMT 18 Jul 96

[From "News Bulletin" No. 1056]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, July 18 (ELTA) - International parliamentary group for Chechnya in Lithuania, after being received information from Lithuanian municipalities on support for independent Chechnya, addressed Lithuanian Prime Minister Mindaugas Stankevicius requesting him and the Government to discuss the issue of Chechnya recognition de facto and de jure.

The address was signed by five MPs: Algirdas Endriukaitis, Romualdas Ozolas, Ignacas Uzdavinys, Juozas Dringelis and Valdas Petrauskas.

"Signing of this document was induced by civil conscience and political responsibility," Endriukaitis told news conference Thursday.

"Law and justice requires impartial decision, i.e. following norms and rules of international law. Positive resolution would be honourable and legally-grounded," the address said.

MPs informed Stankevicius about resolutions of 80 percent of Lithuanian municipalities recognizing independent Chechnya. Endriukaitis said he looked forward to more resolutions.

MP Endriukaitis said the Prime Minister was also presented with other documents, i.e. address of nine deputies of Russian State Duma to leaders and parliaments of democratic states, as well as address of political parties and movements in Chechnya to population of the whole world.

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